Bay Area Reporter

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395 NINTH ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103

Pride Parade and Celebration Gets Underway this Sunday

■ DA issues warning to all violence-prone punks, p. 26

by Kent Brandley

Over 200 groups and contingents will be in the 25th annual San Francisco lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender parade and pride celebration this Sunday, June 18, and a half million people are expected to turn out for its colorful journey down Market Street.

What organizers expect to be the biggest parade in local history will begin at 11 a.m. at Civic Center – located at Eighth and Center – located at Eighth and Market Streets downtown – then proceed down Market to Beale Street. For the first time in its history, it will be televised live on KOFY-20 television. It will also be rebroadcast later that evening.

The politicians who are expected to take part include Mayor Frank Jordan, Former Speaker Willie Brown, and every San Francisco supervisor except Willie Kniedy and Tom Hseih, who is recovering from open

willie Kennedy and Iom Hsein, who is recovering from open heart surgery. (According to estimates provided to the *Bay Area Reporter* by City Hall staffers, gay and lesbian voters are expected to comprise 17 percent – and number some 50,000 – of the city's electorate in the next election.)

A seven-hour non-stop caval-cade of speeches, entertainment, and music called "QueerLapalooza!" is billed as the largest show in the history of San Francisco Pride, and will run from 11 a.m. to about 6 p.m. on the grassy knoll located on the northwest end of Justin Herman Plaza on the Embarcadero in the city. Hundreds of booths will line streets around the plaza, adding to the carnival atmosphere.

Continued on page 26



Let the good times roll! About half a million people are expected to engulf downtown San Francisco and the Embarcadero for the 25th annual pride

Clinton to Gays: I'm No 'Friend'

by Bob Roehr

The Clinton Administration will not file an amicus – friend of the court – brief opposing Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2 when the case comes before the U.S. Supreme Court. Attorney General Janet Reno, speaking on June 8 at her weekly news conference, said there was no federal issue at stake

"The president understands the reasoning of the attorney general," said White House press secretary Michael McCurry, "and he fully supports her reasoning and her determination that the government not file on this case." Reno asserted that politics played no role in what she claimed as her own decision, but facts indicated otherwise on both counts. Solicitor General Drew Days, the Justice Department official who promes the present and the control of the country of the control of the country of the control of the country of the

Department official who argues the government's posi-tions before the court, had prepared a draft brief support-ing the gay side. It had circulated, with Days's support, within the Department and the White House.

The "discussion had a heavily political context," reported *The Washington Post*. Gay and lesbian leaders outside and within the administration furiously lobbied in

outside and within the administration furiously lobbied in support of the brief. They thought they had a commitment from Clinton in the form of his February 14, 1994 letter to gay organizations in which he condemned these initiatives as unconstitutional affronts to equality. [See sidebar, "Clinton and gays: a chronology," page 16.]

But such broad, principled public statements had little impact upon White House political operatives, purportedly including presidential advisor George Stephanopolous, who thought Clinton had already been hurt by association with gay issues. They seemed to believe there would be little political cost in not filing the brief, because most gays will not bring themselves to vote for the likely Republican presidential nominee in 1996.

Reaction was fast and negative.

"That should have been a no-brainer," said William

Continued on page 16

Continued on page 16

White House Wears **Rubber Gloves To Meet Gay Officials**

In a public relations disaster for the Clinton Administration, White House security guards donned latex rubber gloves as an apparent infection precaution when gay and lesbian elected and appointed officials from around the country passed through security checkpoints on Tuesday, June 13, the Bay Area Reporter has learned.

An estimated 45 officials attended the first-ever meeting with senior members of the Clinton Administration, but were only allowed to enter the Old Executive Office Building through a side entrance. Media photographers and reporters were not allowed.

San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano said that he extract the later of the control o

an Francisco Supervisor form Ammano said that he noticed that guards had donned the gloves when the lesbian and gay group was entering the building to meet with White House officials.

"The guards had put on rubber gloves, and when I asked them about it, one of them said, "We have to protect ourselves' or whatever," Ammiano told the Bay Area Parentres.

Ammiano called the incident "an insult" and "a metaphor" for the Clinton Administration's relationship with the lesbian and gay community and people with HIV infection and AIDS.

"They kept saying during the meeting how good they've been to us and how much they care about AIDS. How can they say they can take care of us when they can't even take care of their own house?" Ammiano said.

"That's absolutely disgusting," said Mobilization Against AIDS spokesman Ben Carlson. "I'm just stunned. It's so early '80s. I wasn't aware that security or law enforcement agency in the nation still believed it was necessary to wear rubber gloves. That's profoundly ignorant. It's also tactless."

The incident "issued he helicropy if it wasne't pathet.

The incident "would be ludicrous if it weren't pathetic," said gay activist Ben Schatz, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, a national group

of lesbian and gay physicians.

Schatz, along with Gay Asian and Pacific Alliance
Community HIV Project leader Steve Lew, is slated for
the proposed new AIDS commission.

Longtime AIDS activist and San Francisco Health
Commissioner Mike Shriver told the Bay Area Reporter

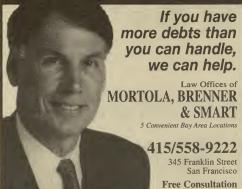
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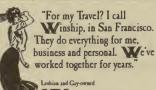


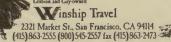


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COMMUNITY NEWS

Ryan White Split Intensifies

SF AIDS Foundation Quits AIDS Action Council

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation is withdrawing from the nation's chief AIDS lobbying organization, the AIDS Action Council [AAC], in a split over reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. Notice reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act. Notice came via a phone call and letter dated Tuesday, Jun 13 in which SFAF said it would not be renewing its membership at the beginning of next month. Foundation spokesman Derek Gordon attributed the break to an "inability to reconcile goals and objectives over public policy." SFAF feels it can better spend its \$70,000 contribution "by redirecting it into internal public policy efforts."

He charged AAC with "adopt[ing] the policy of robbing Peter to pay Paul under the guise of equity, essentially shifting Title I dollars to Title II areas. And in doing so, lowering the expectations of what is in

essentially shifting Title I dollars to Title II areas. And in doing so, lowering the expectations of what is in reality actually needed to serve people with AIDS across the country. By accepting that as a strategy it is going to hurt all PWAs in the long run."

AAC executive director Mark Barnes expressed "regret" over the withdrawal. But he noted that "the entire political complexion of this city [Washington, DC] has changed." The previous week he had told a meeting of Log Cabin Republicans that many AIDS organizations "are in denial" over those changes. "Unless we make some adjustments we are going to lose in a terrible way."

Onless we make some adjustments we are going to lose in a terrible way."

A principle point of division is a revised formula for distributing Ryan White money. The current formula counts the cumulative AIDS case load, about sixty percent of whom are now dead, not just the current number of people living with AIDS.

That formula has skewed funding in favor of first wave cities such as New York and San Francisco, and left little for areas hit later by the epidemic, argued Doug Nelson before the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee in February. He testified on behalf of the Campaign for Fairness in Ryan White CARE Act Funding, a coalition of AIDS services organizations outside of the original epicenters of infection.

This "inequity in funding per living AIDS case" ranges from a high of \$6,495 in San Francisco, to \$3,076 in San Diego, to less than \$1,200 in cities like Memphis, Indianapolis, or Des Moines, according to Nelson.

The revised formula has the potential to shift money from places like San Francisco and New York City to underfunded areas in the rest of the country. Drafters realized this and created a floor to protect those cities from drastic cuts in funding. The Senate version of the bill limits losses to less than 7.5 per-cent, the House version to less than five percent over

cent, the House Version to less than the percent over the five years of the reauthorization. California Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer both have signed on as co-sponsors of the Senate version of the Ryan White bill. Gordon called it "unfortunate that our Senators are out of line at this

A great fear among all AIDS lobbyists is that a split between factions will further delay reauthorization of Ryan White. Without that bill no money can be allocated to AIDS services for the fiscal year beginning in October. And the later the reauthorization the more difficult it becomes to gain increases or even to hold on to current levels of funding. ▼

Beach Blanket Babylon **Founder Steve Silver Dies at 51**

by I.A. Kisselman

San Francisco theatrical producer Steve Silver died of AIDS complications Monday, June 12. He was 51. Beach Blanket Babylon, the long-running revue he created, had just turned 21 years old one week earlier.

Press representative Charles Zukow said Silver, who had been in ill health for some time, died at his home with his wife, Jo Schuman Silver, at his side.

"Beach Blanket Babylon is the product of Steve's creativity and his desire to provide the public with great entertainment," Jo Silvar said in a written statement.

lic with great entertainment," Jo Silver said in a written statement. "It is a tribute to Steve's vision that what started out as street corner entertainment later became a San Francisco institu-tion." The show is now the nation's longest-running musical

The show's mixture of puns, popular songs, lighthearted camp,



Philanthropist and showman extraordinaire Steve Silver.

and enormous hats – if that word can truly describe the panoramic headgear worn by its performers –

made it a favorite of local resimade it a favorite of local residents as well as thousands of tourists each year. The only interruption to its run, which began June 7, 1974, was caused by the 1989 earthquake. However, officials announced Thursday's show would be canceled in the producation of the producation o

silver was well known for his charitable and philanthropic contributions to AIDS and arts organitributions to AIDs and arts organizations. A 20th anniversary production of Beach Blanket Babylon benefited both the New Main Library and the AIDS Memorial Grove at Golden Gate Park in 1994. Local AIDS service groups supported by Silver over the years include the AIDS Emergency Fund and Project Open Hand.

Along with his wife, Silver is survived by his brother Roger, nieces Leigh and Gilliam Silver, and nephew Nicholas Silver. Services were scheduled for Thursday, June 15 at Grace Cathedral on Nob Hill.

All charges dropped in HIV+ prisoner bite case

by Kent Brandley

Charges of attempted murder will be dropped against Quentin Hicks, a gay and HIV-positive prisoner at California Men's Colony East at San Luis, Obispo who allegedly bit a prison guard, the Bay Area Reporter learned at presstime

presstine.

An elated Judy Greenspan, director of the HIV/AIDS in Prison Project of Catholic Charities of the East Bay, told the B.A.R. that Hicks's attorney Ken Cirisan had "received assurances from the district attorney that remain-

ing charges would be dropped."

Greenspan said the prison guard who accused Hicks of biting him had a "horrible record, with a history of arrests for drunkenness and disorderly conduct," and said "charges should never have been brought in the first place." She has maintained since last March that the charges were based solely on ignorance, fear, and discrimination.
"This means Hicks will be getting out soon,"

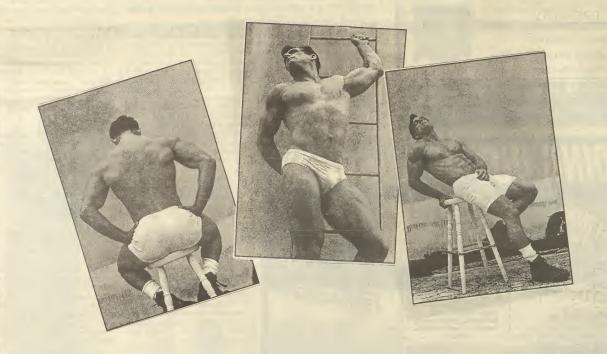
This means Hicks will be getting out soon," Greenspan said, calling it "a tremendous victory.

"We're very pleased with the outcome," she said. ▼

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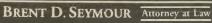
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While U.N. Celebrates, **Queers Will Demonstrate**

Marchers want global AIDS emergency declared

by Kent Brandley

A planned massive AIDS protest in San Francisco on Sunday, June 25, will coincide with the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations

here.

Marchers will attempt to gain the attention of President Bill Clinton and United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, as well as other world leaders and former world leaders expected here for the event. Organizers of the march say they are demonding the United they are demanding the United Nations, through its health agency, the World Health Organization

(WHO), declare AIDS and homo-

(WHO), declare AIDS and homophobia as global emergencies.
"Over a million people worldwide are already dead from AIDS," said Brett Thomas, a spokesperson for the Coalition Responding to AIDS & Statesanctioned Homophobia (CRASH), "and that number will continue to climb if AIDS and hatred of homosexuals are ignored during the U.N.'s 50th anniversary celebration in San Francisco."

Demonstrators will assemble at Castro and Market streets at noon, Sunday, June 25 and will march down Market to Van Ness Avenue. The march will then pro-

ceed north to 401 Van Ness, the site of the War Memorial Opera House

CRASH is calling on all peo-ple in the Bay Area concerned with lack of a cure for AIDS and denial of basic human rights for gays and lesbians around the globe to participate in the "Out of the Ghetto, Into the World" the Ghetto, Into the demonstration.

For more information about the laws and social circumstances for lesbians and gays around the world, see "A World Without Borders," pp. 37-68 of this issue.

Mission Street Safeway Fires Gay Worker

by Dennis Conkin

The Lesbian and Gav Labor The Lesbian and Gay Labor Alliance and Supervisor Tom Ammiano are looking into the firing of a gay San Francisco Safeway worker for "sexual harassment" of a customer, even though the customer who complained has since admitted she was "just angry" at the time and has withdrawn the complaint. Witnesses to a disciplinary.

Witnesses to a disciplinary hearing about the incident also allege that when cashier Jamie Awad tried to defend himself, a district manager grew abusive, district manager grew abusive, verbally battered the part-time college student, and said he didn't have to "take it from this numbAwad is the popular Mission Street Safeway store cashier who was disciplined last year after another customer – who turned out to be dating one of his co-workers – complained about the gay pride buttons he wore on his Safeway apron. Awad had worn the buttons without incident for months without previous incident.

'Fuck off,' she explained

The woman who complained that Awad had "sexually harassed" her was unhappy with the way her groceries were being bagged by a new Safeway bagger, who wasn't keeping the frozen food together as she wanted. as she wanted

"He [Awad] told me that the "He [Awad] told me that I was bagger was new and that I was unnecessarily embarrassing her," the customer wrote in a letter of complaint to Safeway. "I told him that he could train her or I would by demonstrating how I wanted my food bagged."

According to Awad, the com-plaining customer was extremely argumentative and rude and he was trying to remain civil to her, even after she continued to swear and shout at him.

"I told him to fuck off," the customer admitted in her letter – and then accused Awad of "sexual harassment.

harassment."

Awad said that woman was "going off," and even provided the customer with a Safeway complaint card to report the incident.

According to the woman's complaint, "one definition of sexual harassment is a man trying to

make a woman act a certain way by making her feel stupid."

The customer withdrew the harassment claim after she was contacted by a Safeway Human Resources Department staffer. However, Awad told the Bay Area Reporter, the staffer still recommended that he be suspended – and said that Safeway failed to contact a witness who observed the incident and signed a state-ment supporting the facts as he would have related them.

Safeway has no comment on Awad's termination because disciplinary actions and all other personnel matters are confidential by law, according to Safeway spokeswoman Debra Lambert.

The schoil is "not anti-gay" and

The chain is "not anti-gay" and such job bias is illegal, Lambert

told the B.A.R. "We have many gay employees and an equal opportunity employment policy,'

An anti-gay pattern

Am anti-gay partern

Awad said that the incident is one of a pattern of anti-gay incidents, and also pointed out that he was terminated by the chain after his active role in the recent employee strike.

Last July, Awad was ordered to remove a pink triangle and anti-

remove a pink triangle and anti-gay bashing button after customer Grazia Lambardi complained. Blaming him for an "attitude

Lambardi said she objected to Awad's button. "He



Jamie Awad

appropri-ate for store clerk comment o m e i m e

wears

button with a message, Stop Gay

Bashing, which not feel

straight people get bashed too, and he got testy and curt," she said in a letter to Safeway complaining about Awad's "attitude problem."

Lambardi complained she was-n't really anti-gay but said that since she made her comments, Awad never smiled at her or said hello or goodbye "or anything." Still insisting that she wasn't

anti-gay, Lambardi went on in the two-page letter of complaint to say she was also upset that Awad wore a gay rainbow flag button his

"I have no objection to the flag although I don't feel compelled to go around telling the world my sexual persuasion," she said. But the anti-bashing button went a "bit too far," Lambardi claimed.

Awad was ordered to take the buttons off, as they violated Safeway policy. Awad has subpoenaed Safeway

Awar has supported a survey documents about his termination, in order to fight the grocery chain's attempt to deny him unemployment insurance.



Arbitrator Dismisses Suit Against Polk St. Bar Owner

by Dennis Conkin

The owner of a popular Polk Street gay bar was falsely sued for sexual harassment and is the victim of a vendetta by a former worker who had two prior felony convictions, a Superior Court arbitrator has ruled.

The April 6 ruling was released last week.

This sexual harassment claim against Stewart Hiatt, owner of the 'N Touch bar, was dismissed, and Wendell Santana, the former employee who filed the civil action, may now find himself the subject of a lawsuit for malicious prosecution.

a lawsuit for malicious prosecution.
"That's an option," attorney
Curtiss Ponzi told the Bay Area
Reporter. "I've never seen such an
outrageous abuse of the legal system
in the 14 years I've been in practice."
Ponzi said that Hiatt was the victim of a "cynical and vindictive"
campaign of terror to ruin him and
force the bar's closure.

'Three strikes' vendetta

According to Ponzi, Hiatt fired Santana's lover Ken Schornborg, after the worker was "arrested for carrying a concealed firearm" in March 1994, after which Schornborg and Santana, an 'N Touch bartender at the time, devised a "Three Strikes" plan as a retailation against him.

plan as a retaliation against him.

The first strike involved a May 1994 police raid of the 'N Touch for the removal of an illegal video poker

machine.

According to statements made under oath, Schornborg tipped off the police about the existence of the video poker machine, and then tipped off the media, including the

gay press, in advance of a police raid of the premises.

The bar's liquor license was briefly suspended earlier this year

briefly suspended earlier this year for the gambling violation.

In another incident, which also drew the attention of the press, Hiatt's boyfriend was also arrested on drug charges in front of Hiatt's house. Police thoroughly searched the premises but no drugs were found in Hiatt's home and no charges were filed against him.

Ponzi told the Bay Area Reporter one of Santana's closest friends

one of Santana's closest friends admitted under oath that she was asked to help set up Hiatt's boyfriend as part of a "second strike" in retalias part of a "second strike" in retali-ation for Schornborg's termination. She declined, but testified that Santana later told her that he help set up the drug bust.

up the drug bust.

According to Ponzi, "the third strike" of the plan consisted of false sexual harassment charges against Hiatt, also filed in May 1994.

Ponzi said the claims were based on false testimony by Santana and the observations of gay private investigator John Nazarian, who saw the incidents occur twice in early May.

Nazarian had been hired by Schombore.

Schornborg.

"Hiatt did flirt with Santana, but these were isolated incidents and gestures of affection and friendliness which were welcome on occasion and which were not intended to lead to sexual conduct," Ponzi said. Ponzi also produced eyewitness-es who said Santana was "routinely flirtatious" and had fondled Hiatt's

buttocks and genitals on numerous occasions, as well as touched and fondled the buttocks and genitals of

other co-workers.

"One of Santana's former best friends testified that Santana's behavior at the 'N Touch bar was extremely flirtatious, and that Santana had sex with other individuals on the premises," Ponzi said.

One former worker testified that Schomborg testified be "could earn".

Schomborg testified he "could earn \$10,000" if he could support Santana's version of events and would testify that Hiatt had also sexually harassed him.

Another witness said that he was threatened with harm if he ever spilled the beans about the "Three Strikes" plan for revenge against Hiatt and the bar.

'Beyond flirtatious'Arbitrator Lucy Bettis said that Hiatt, who admitted having consensual sex contact with employees and having sex at the bar, demonstrated "lack of judgment." But she ruled that while his actions toward Santana could seem to support a claim of sex-ual harassment, she ruled there were several reasons why his conduct was, in fact, not sexual harassment. Bettis ruled that Nazarian had

Bettis ruled that Nazarian had failed to determine whether the conduct he observed was unwelcome, and also said that Santana's own conduct toward Hiatt and other co-workers itself went "beyond flirtatious."

"In light of this conduct, Mr. Santana's claims that Mr. Hiatt's conduct was unwelcome do not ring true. Mr. Santana appears to have invited precisely the sort of conduct of which he complains," she ruled. The arbitrator also ruled that each side was responsible for its own attorney's fees.

East Bay AIDS Services Discontinued

East Bay announced the cancel-lation of case management ser-vices to PWAs, thanks to cuts in the federal Housing Opportunities for People With AIDS program. Despite an "excellent track record" in keeping PWAs housed, the pro-gram failed to receive a

keeping PWAs housed, the pro-gram failed to receive a HOPWA grant.

Cheryl A. Bassette, housing case manager for the Oakland-based agency, told the B.A.R. that it hoped an application for Ryan White Title II funds would compensate for the loss of HOPWA funds, It was turned down and, as a result, will cease

obstructives that down and, as a result, will cease operations July 1.

Bassette explained that the programs don't actually offer additional money to PWAs, but additional money to PWAs, but rather provide management services to insure that bills get paid on time, until Social Security or other checks arrived. "What happens when their check doesn't come," asked Bassette, "and you need your rent to prevent an eviction?" Besides providing emergency rent payments, the programs picked up utility bills and the cost of other daily necessities if a client ran into problems, which was quite often.

Most of the clients had a history of homelessness and substance abuse, and the payee system insured they would remain stable and therefore better equipped to deal with their disease, she said. Worse, the

program cuts indicate a continuing problem in how people with AIDS are perceived: "They're living too long, they're too much of a drain on the economy. That's what it comes down to," she said.

Bassette said, "There's going to be a lot of victims of this," including herself: she will lose her job with Catholic Charities as a result of the cuts. Valerie Papaya-Mann, Executive Director of AIDS Project East Bay, told the B.A.R. the payee system will be sorely missed. "I think it's important to have these kind of programs," she said, "It's a support system for [PWAs] to be able to maintain a level of living. It keeps them housed instead of on the streets."

Linda Mayr, part-owner and building manager for Oakland's Rainbow Building, which houses a number of HIV-positive men and women, also objected to the elimination of

houses a number of HIV-posi-tive men and women, also objected to the elimination of the payee system. "I think [the cuts] are going to devastate the community. A lot of folks that are HIV-positive also have a drug and alcohol problem; part of their agreement with Social Security is that they have a navee." payee."

If PWAs become homeless

once this safety net has gone,
Mayr asked, "What are they
going to do? We're going to have
more crime activity on the street.
It's just a domino effect." \[
-- Mary Ann Swissler



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CARTOON



EDITORIAL

A March (Just) in Time

his San Francisco Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Freedom Day weekend couldn't come at the end of a worse week, or at a better time. There's nothing more invigorating than the annual parade, and boy, does it seem like everyone needs it right about now.

As we march down the street in

support of liberation and equality this year, we'll be following in the wake of some troubling homophobia: last Thursday the Clinton administration announced it wouldn't fight Amendment 2 in Colorado; the fol-lowing Tuesday it invited gay and lesbian officials to a (Clinton-less) meeting, but shepherded them through a

ing, but shepherded them through a side door past a phalanx of guards wearing latex gloves.

Whatever the difference between Bill Clinton and George Bush, it isn't immediately apparent and it isn't worth much. Apparently the gay community is supposed to sit out the next election and take whatever we get, since none of the probable choices are since none of the probable choices are very attractive. Gramm? No. Gingrich? No. Dole? Maybe her, but definitely not him. Clinton? Same

One thing is obvious: the politicos are underestimating our community. Clearly they *need* to hear the sound and see the spectacle of a half million of us in a show of force this weekend.

These celebrations reinforce to them – and to ourselves - that we are not to be trifled with, not to be ignored, and certainly not to be thrown on a discard pile in some cynical political poker

With so much federal homophobia afoot, tempers show signs of straining. They may not be helped by imported troublemaking homophobes along the route. Fortunately, the city's district attorney has promised to prosecute persecutors who cross over the line to physical attacks and vandalism.

It may be difficult for some gay marchers who come face to face with the screaming bigots to pass them by without reacting. But it is absolutely necessary. They have come to town in search of that reaction – specifically, in search of fights – and it's up to us to

send them home empty-handed.

Some of those bigots get paid huge

sums to make us unhappy; it's unfortunate, but true. They will do whatever they can to boost their visibility and make this weekend a nightmare instead of a celebration. That's their job. The police will be there to keep order; that's *their* job. *Your* job is to make a joyful noise and a strong pres-

If they inspire enough rage to make you want to tell them something, put the anger to a better use: Write a letter to Clinton and tell him how you feel. And if that doesn't seem like enough, persuade someone else to write Clinton. Look around at the parade and consider the weight of all those letters. If we all did it, the political scene in this country would change in

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One other primary thing to remember is the primary thing – as in the *Democratic Party* primaries. So far the politicians lining up in the glare of New Hampshire lights have all been Republicans (and mean-spirited ones, too, even by their standards, which raised the delicious possibility of some really ugly mud-slinging on the campaign trail) but there is still plenty of time for some conscientious Democrats to come to the aid of their

By now Clinton has so completely destroyed his former power base he makes Jimmy Carter's re-election chances look like a shoo-in, so it shouldn't be terribly difficult to get the rest of the party faithful to see how weak his incumbency has become. Jesse Jackson just announced he has decided to decide whether the decided to decide whether to announce, but that's all he's decided so far. Washington AIDS activist Steve Michael has entered the race, but as a symbol. That's not exactly what's called for. A concrete example of lead-ership and compassion is what is needed. This weekend we march to demand one, even as we provide one.
See you there! ▼

GUEST OPINION

To a Gay **Nephew With** Love from A **Good Fairy**

by ian Johnson

i David, I'm writing to you while having coffee in San Francisco's Castro District and waiting to go to 10 o'clock mass at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church about a block away. The large congregation there is seemingly about 90 percent gay men, and the priests, knowing their people, deliver very good and appropriate homilies.

Dressing this morning I pinned to my polo shirt a pin I've had for years, but which I wear only now and then. It proclaims: "I'M A GOOD FAIRY." As I drove over the Bay Bridge to the City, it occurred to me that many years ago, growing up in Shreveport and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, believed, as I had been taught, that because I was a fairy I could not possibly be good. It took years to outgrow that misconception and understand that for millions of men the words "good" and "fairy" fit together just fine. I hope you have become, or are becoming, convinced of that also.

When I lived in Dallas, Texas, often I would drive south and at the town limits of (if I remember correctly) Waxahachie there was a large sign that proclaimed, "Welcome to Waxahachie - a town of 8,100 friendly people and two or three old grouches." For a long time now I have thought: "Welcome to the gay community - one of tens of millions of friendly, usually horny, but nevertheless good fairies and 2 or 3 hundred thousand old – and young – grouches." But even our grouches, if they are loved enough, under their armor of fear and anger are found to be pretty good fairies

Knowing that you are a good fairy (despite what others may say, especially misled "fundamentalist" Christians) helps ever so much in this business of coming out. "Coming out" is in fact relatively easy after you have come to believe in your own goodness. Indeed, until a man or woman, gay or straight, comes to know from experience their goodness, he or she is not really "out" at all.

So, my young gay nephew, Hi Ho, Hi Ho, it's off to mass I go.

Good Fairy #12,476,321 1/2

LETTERS

Ulrichs fans

Please remind your readers that Karl Heinrich Ulrichs died exactly 100 years ago on July 14, 1895. He was the very first out of the closet gay activist and advocate whose name we know. We encourage everyone to celebrate this great man's

Whatever your readers might choose to do, ask them to spread the use of our motto, "Karl Heinrich Ulrichs (d. 1895) 100 Years of Pride in Heinrich Ulrichs (d. 1895) 100 Years of Pride in '95" and do whatever they can in his memory, especially during Gay Pride Month (June) and Gay History Month (October). Above all, "celebrate" our 100 years of proud gay and lesbian history. On his death day, July 14, give a salute and a thought of thanks to him for showing us the way.

For more information, readers may contact us by writing to Lombardi-Nash, 6858 Arthur Court, Lacksonyille, Fl. 3211, or by calling (900) 744.

Jacksonville, FL 32211, or by calling (904) 744-

Paul Nash Michael Lombardi-Nash Jacksonville, FL

Sign for yourself

In reference to Joe Kempkes's letter regarding new signs for gay and lesbian deaf people, just who has the right to invent new signs, or words for that matter, and then impose them on the rest of the community?

Language is language. Most of us in the deaf community are appalled at the mixing of sign lan-guage systems and invention of signs without the

consensus of most deaf in accepting them.

Not only does this practice become confusing to those learning sign language, it is destroying the very beauty of ASL (American Sign Language), the true language of the deaf.

ASL is recognized as a language with its own grammatical structure and syntax.

Some people say gay, some say faggot, others say whatever comes to them as appropriately descriptive in their language.

As a deaf person I can put my fingers anywhere I please to get my point across within the confines of a language legitimately established.

or a language legitimately established.

Don't tell me how to express myself in my own

ASL way. With my middle finger crossing my
brow I say, Sign for yourself!

Limp wrist, fingers and all!

John Bradley San Francisco

Poor little white boy

Many homosexuals have been excluded from Many homosexuals have been excluded from employment by identity politics and the racial minority-only policy of the city's affirmative action officers.

During the 50s, 60s and 70s, thousands of homosexuals flocked to San Francisco to escape oppression in the hinterland. Most found employment in the food service and host industries or escape.

ment in the food service and hotel industries or as

office, retail or bank clerks.

Under pressure from affirmative action officers, virtually all of these firms adopted a policy of hiring racial minorities only, mostly young Asian women. Homosexuals are not the only minority discriminated against. People past 50 are conspicuous by their absence in these firms. Hispanics and blacks are underrepresented, and white men and women, be they gay or straight, are completely excluded

You are invited to go on one of our affirmative action tours to see first hand the results of the city's ageist, racist, and homophobic affirmative action program. You will see business after business after business and government offices and employment agencies too, where more than two thirds of the employees are Asians, all of them under 50, and not even a token white.

Surveys have shown that a third of the city's homeless are homosexuals, men and women. We will take you to the homeless encampments and shelters, so that you can hear, right from the horse's mouth, that many are homeless because of affirmative action.

Affirmative action and its supporters are racists, ageists, and homophobics [sic]. We are offended by them, and we need the help of activists to orga-nize counter-demonstrations and political action. For further information call Homo exuals for Civil Rights at 431-1746.

> Rev. Don Jackson Homosexuals for Civil Rights San Francisco

[The editor responds: Would you be interested in taking a corresponding tour in which you can

see people who have benefited from affirmative action, Reverend? Or failing that, a hike? Happy World Without Borders Day,]

Thanks to everyone almost literally

The Australian Outback moved to the Castro on Saturday, May 20 with the benefit showing of The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert at the Castro Theater. The entire neighborhood was awash in feathers, costume jewelry and drag queen attitude. And it was fab-u-lous!

The Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC). the small grass roots agency that was the benefi-ciary, received nearly \$20,000 in proceeds from the event in support of their efforts to provide services and education to a neighborhood devastated

by HIV and neglect.

TARC wants to express its appreciation to Tom Lindsay, Robert Martin, and Steven Perlmuter, who acted as the volunteer producers of this event. These community members spent five months planning *Priscilla* '95 and worked vigorously to maximize the financial yield for TARC and its clients.

TARC further wishes to extend its gratitude and appreciation to all who came forward to help make Priscilla '95 an outstanding success. The extrava-ganza could not have happened without the generganza could not have happened without the generous support of 10 Percent Magazine, Above & Beyond Travel, Air New Zealand, Anna's Three Bears, Apollo Media, the Bay Times, Body Shop, Boss Graphics, Bredwell Meyer, Citizen/Body Citizen, Different Light, DNA Lounge, Don't Panic, Eleven Ristorante, Gold's Gym, Gramercy Productions, Hog on Ice, Hotel Honolulu, Jacqueline's International Catering, Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, Leather Masters, Ma Tante Sumi, Mainline Gifts, Miller/Weiner Communications, Noah's Bagels, Odyssey, Orion Travel, Out Now in San Jose, Penguin Books, Polygram Distribution, Qantas, Rainbow Cellular, Rainbow Light Nutritional Systems, Ram Studios, Polygram Distribution, Qantas, Rainbow Cellular, Rainbow Light Nutritional Systems, Ram Studios, Regency Limousine, Samuel Adams Brewing, Skyy Vodka, Snookies Cookies, Sony Music, The Chocolate Bear, The Evans Group, The Lavender Pages, UN-U-SU-A-LL-A, and Urban Eyes. TARC wishes to salute the outstanding contribution and support of *Priscilla* '95 by these leading community businesses and organizations.

support of *Priscilla* '95 by these leading community businesses and organizations.

The event would not have been the same without our celebrities. We are amazed by the astonishing Joan Jett Blakk and grateful to her for hosting the evening. Our panel of celebrity judges, including Patsy Cline, Elvis Herselvis, Mabel Maney, Madeleine, and Pussy Tourette, brought elegance and splendy to the proceedings. Pussy's performant splendy to the proceedings. and splendor to the proceedings. Pussy's performance at the DNA Lounge was incredible. We were truly honored to have Lizzy Gardiner and Tim Chappel, Academy Award-winning costume designers for the film, at the event. The producers would like to extend a special acknowledgment to Elise Lockwood, still photographer for the film, who made a generous contribution of her photos to the event and was instrumental in helping to pull things together. We are also indebted to the many community volunteers who worked to make the event a smash success.

And last but certainly not least, we wish to tip our sequined turban to all those stunning drag queens who came out and made *Priscilla '95 so* much more than another night at the movies.

Ladies, you were truly spectacular.

For those of you who weren't able to get tickets to the event itself, you might want to check out the photo exhibit at RAM Studios. It will be on display through June. And we will do it all again next year so start planning your costume for *Priscilla '96!*

Executive Director, Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center

Fleeing City Athletic Club

It's no wonder there are so many discount membership offers lately, as so many are leaving or plan to. The new manager has fired the popular staff, refused their claims for unemployment, and ban-ished them from using their memberships or talk-ing to former training clients. He has pressured employees to support the firing of others and generally created an unpleasant atmosphere

In addition, a construction change has caused much concern. The new entrance, eliminating the only rest area, forces members to drag in street dirt right through the shower room in order to reach the

overheated locker room (which is now so packed by new lockers, it's difficult to move). By cramming machines into every space upstairs and down, the already tiny gym is becom-Continued on page 8

"I thought I needed a doctor. I really needed a teacher ...a collaborator." Gay Men's Therapy Associates



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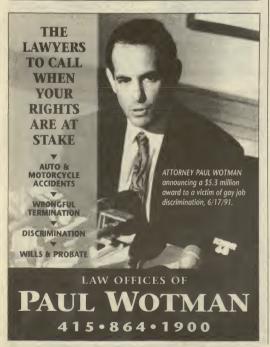
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LETTERS

ing claustrophobic. What a shame this new regime

and owners have spoiled a once-joyful gay gym.

I am not signing my name as it would surely cause the loss of my membership.

> Name Withheld By Request San Francisco

Acquired Cellular Immune Deficiency

Congratulations on printing Forest Baker's let-ter "Drug Stooges?" (June 1). This is a refreshing break from the B.A.R.'s usual conservatism on AIDS-treatment issues.

The Oxford Concise Science Dictionary defines AIDS as "a disease of humans characterized by defective cell-mediated immunity" (italics mine). This describes the disease as it was understood before the advent of HIV. If research had pursued a course of treating the disease as it presents (as an Acquired Cellular-Immune Deficiency), the epidemic might have been nipped in the bud. But instead, the course of research was taken over by the 'Virus Hunters' who monopolized AIDS as an always-fatal viral infection instead of a treatable cellular-immune disorder. A strong analogy could be drawn with diabetes mellitus; the disease must be treated as it presents, not with antivirals aimed at the "diabetes virus." Ten years' total failure of antifetroviral/vaccine strategies only bears out the need to return to *square one*, before HIV, and before T4 counts were established as a diagnostic

Of course, the HIV pharmaceutical establish-Or course, the HIV pnarmaceutical establishment, like the tobacco industry, is not about to change. So any rational AIDS treatment has no choice but to grow up completely *outside* the industry and in spite of it – like smoking abate-

> **Bill Sheppard** San Francisco

Activists using the Internet

ACT UP/Golden Gate would like to express its profound distress at the removal of one of our members from the Queerlinks conference and the general neglect of issues pertaining to people with AIDS in the program for the workshop. That a member of ACT UP was asked to leave for attempting to raise this issue is deeply ironic, espe-

attempting to raise this issue is deeply ironic, especially given the organizers' alleged commitment to helping activists use the Internet.

In the weeks preceding the conference, a posting on sci.med.aids by Digital Queers/ Queerlinks requested that those who use the Internet for activist purposes and would be interested in participation in a panel discussion contact them. ACT UP responded (via e-mail) to this request and offered to send a member to the conference. No response was received by ACT UP. We were then a bit surprised that when we arrived at the conference, the presenter on HIV/AIDS Activism was neither an activist nor a person living with AIDS. Do we smell a bit of

person living with AIDS. Do we smell a bit of patronizing behavior?

ACT UP is committed to using resources available on the Internet to mobilize the AIDS activist able on the Internet to mobilize the AIDS activist community. We have used the Usenet group sci.med.aids and several mailing lists to force Genentech to re-commit its new drug for peripheral neuropathy to a trial from which it had withdrawn. Likewise, postings have urged phone and fax calls to Serono Labs to enlarge its expanded access program and cut the price for human growth hormone, which has been extremely effective in fighting HIV-related wasting. The newly formed national Protease Working Group, of which ACT UP is a leading member, has used the 'net to distribute information on its campaign to net to distribute information on its campaign to force Abbott Labs to make its protease inhibitor available on a compassionate use basis. Similar programs have already been agreed to by Merck

However, ACT UP is not committed to the Internet for the sake of technology. We know that many people with AIDS are often sick and house-bound for extended periods of time, and can lose contact with the outside world. As many of us have experienced this ourselves, we are sensitive to pro-viding those who are housebound with a means to make a political difference and stay in touch with the activist movement. We would welcome other organizations to use the Internet in a similar fashion. Of course, the ways in which the Internet offers PWAs contact with the outside world got missed in the conference; instead we were offered an endless stream of self-congratulatory prattlings by the organizers. No time left for activists, we're

Look for a new ACT UP website in the coming month. ACT UP meets Tuesdays at 592b Castro Street at 7:30 p.m. Join us.

Act up, fight back, fight AIDS!

ACT UP/Golden Gate San Francisco

[The educators at that free conference, as we understood it, were chosen for their expertise, not antibodies. We certainly support acting up and fighting back, but we wonder if there aren't much much much more important battles to be fought than this one.]

Government priorities

The movie *Panther* has stirred up some critics because it promotes the basic fact of life of the government-gangster-ghetto drug connection as a given reality, in that it is the means by which the government avoids providing jobs, but instead pro-motes genocide in the African-American and Latino communities.

At the same time, we have the revelations that

At the same time, we have the revelations that the government, in particular, the FBI, has been spying on ACT UP, and continues to do so, thus making it very clear that the government's priorities on AIDS are to continue to allow AIDS to exist, thus causing death in genocidal proportions in the nonwhite and gay male communities. Obviously, if the government wanted to put an end to AIDS, it would not waste our tax dollars on spying but rether the the productory first step to deal ing, but rather take the mandatory first step to deal with AIDS by setting up a national health care system guaranteeing health care to all from cradle to grave, as exists in the rest of the industrialized world, and then doing the necessary scientific research to put an end to AIDS.

Since both the Democratic President Clinton and the Republican House Speaker Gingrich have expressed their priorities as being the military, the FBI, the Drug Enforcement Administration and the crime bill (Newsweek, April 10), we can no longer rely on this government to serve the people.

San Francisco

Rodeo horrors

The Gay Rodeo still exists. This is because gay people financially support it by purchasing tickets. What is it going to take to make people understand that all forms of oppression are related?

The rodeo is where terrified baby cows run

away from lariat-swinging horsemen just before their bodies are snapped backwards by a noose fas-

then bodies are shapped backwards by a house las-tened onto their necks, burning, bruising, and sometimes breaking those necks. The rodeo is where frenzied horses gyrate vio-lently, not because that is their nature, but solely because of the "bucking strap" – the spurs belted onto their flanks.

The rodeo is where steers are team roped, one lasso around their legs, another around their heads, yanked in opposite directions, swung in the air, and slammed to the ground, and where on occasion their horns crack and splinter.

The rodeo is about intimidation and abuse of

The rodeo is about intimidation and abuse of those weaker than us. It is about brutality and cruelty and injustice, forcing fear and pain on innocent, defenseless beings and violating the basic principles of freedom and peace.

As a violent and exploitative part of our culture, rodeos should not be tolerated. It should be boycotted and put out of business.

Baron L. Miller San Francisco

Moms fighting back

I received the article in your newspaper about the Mothers March Against AIDS in Washington DC and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for publishing it.

As National Chair for the march I thought that

As National Chair for the march I thought that Katherine Miller did a great job, not only writing about it but speaking at the rally.

We are starting work on the march for next year and perhaps you will join us and cover the march yourself. We, as mothers who have or have lost our yourself. We, as mothers who have or have lost our children to AIDS, are really starting to fight back. They will hear from us all during the year and see our faces ... until there is a cure

> **Beverly Rotter** National Chair, Mothers March Against AIDS



Somewhere in the huge onstage retinue that celebrated Willie Brown's June 3 mayoral campaign kickoff was noted homophobe Rev. Eugene Lumpkin.

Villie gets the last laugh

ore than one person has wondered how Willie Brown's gay wille Brown's gay and lesbian support-ers felt sharing the stage with the so-called Reverend Eugene Lumpkin at Brown's mayoral campaign kickoff in Japantown. It's threatening to blow up in his face, but considering how slickly he maneuvers, it may come to

he maneuvers, it may come to nothing.

When Brown realized that his days as speaker of the Assembly were finally over, that the Republicans had indeed captured a majority, he had one card left up the sleeve of his \$1,500 Armani suit. For the Republicans, it should have been a dream come true; they had ended the 14-year reign of Willie Brown in Sacramento. So why were Republican assemblywhy were Republican assembly-members scowling and Democrats chortling last week?

Because Brown staged a departure from the powerful speaker-ship that outfoxed the supposed leaders of the GOP wing. With the leaders of the GOP wing. With the help of every Democrat in the Assembly and one GOP vote from his hand-picked successor, Assemblywoman Doris Allen, Willie Brown managed to place Allen in his former job that the GOP majority was about to hand to the powerful longtime Brown critic Jim Brulte.

Doris Allen a little known

Doris Allen, a little-known assemblywoman from Orange assemblywoman from Orange County who had on more than one occasion bucked the leaders of her own party (and was most certainly not popular among her GOP colleagues), took over Brown's post and all its perks by striking what her fellow Republicans termed "an unbolk alliarce" with Provin and her fellow Republicans termed "an unholy alliance" with Brown and the Assembly Democrats. The deal put together by Brown and his trusted allies was only the latest setback for Assembly Republicans since last November, when they thought they had won the first GOP majority in the lower house in more than two decades. Now Brulte and other Republicans have decided to wage war on the new speaker by insti-

war on the new speaker by insti-tuting a recall against her and test-ing her self-declared allegiance to them in a variety of ways. Indeed, one Orange County GOP leader associated with anti-gay Congressman Dana Rohrabacher from that same area promised Allen would be punished, if not destroyed, because "to have someone who is supposedly a
Republican from Orange County
become a puppet to Willie Brown
is just too much to stomach."
While the GOP members fight

among themselves, Willie Brown finds himself in an ideal position. He is the Democratic floor leader and speaker emeritus, and he still has a large office, plenty of staff and control of the Democratic cau-

In addition to picking his own successor, part of the deal with Doris Allen is a new set of rules pushed through with her one GOP vote that guarantee that the Assembly's Democrats will still have even representation on all committees despite the slim GOP majority. In fact, again with Ms. Allen's support, the new rules keep all 26 committees and the chairmanships evenly divided.

In the face of furious opposi-

Commentary

tion from her own party, Allen attempted this week to assure her fellow members that she is "still a Republican, and I will absolutely be a team player with the ublicans." However, she Republicans." Republicans." However, she admitted that she gave Brown her word she would keep Democratic members in important committee positions. Allen also told her fellow Republicans that she would not agree to change the rules unless Democrats agreed – an unlikely propered.

unless Democrats agreed – an unlikely prospect.

I don't know if Willie Brown will beat Frank Jordan for mayor, but his pact with one "friendly Republican" last week shows that he can still wheel and deal with the best of them. Small wonder that his relitied prospects refer to that his political opponents refer to the former speaker as "wily Willie."

Politics and people Mayor Frank Jordan and wife Mayor Frank Jordan and wire Wendy hosted an overflow cock-tail reception at their house Monday for gay and lesbian guests in honor of Gay Pride Week. The rainbow flag went up outside their Pacific Heights house for the party and won't be coming down all week

Supporters of Municipal Court judge candidate Ron Albers are hosting a fundraiser cocktail party for him June 27 at Leticia's Restaurant, 2247 Market (552-1070 for info). Albers, Kay Tsenin, and Matthew Rothschild are in that race for the bench next March; any of the three would make a good jurist.

Some state Democratic strate-

Some state Democratic strate-Some state Democratic strate-gists are telling me that California Demo Party chair Bill Press is in hot water with party powers and could be on the way out. The political jockeying in Sacramento for 1998 is already beginning. Sources there are say-ing that prescomer Controller.

ing that newcomer Controller Kathleen Connell, with family millions available, is telling friends that she is thinking of tak-ing on Lieutenant Governor Gray Davis and anyone else as she eyes

Pete Wilson's job.

Speaking of Wilson, his latest flip-flop has him retreating from a long-stated commitment. The governor now says he will not lead the fight to remove anti-abortion language from next year's GOP national platform.

I'm not sure this one is really worth the space, but from Topeka comes word that the city school

comes word that the city school district there has refused to give community credit to Topeka West High student Sam Phelps-Roper righ student oam Prietis-Roper for his anti-gay picketing. Phelps-Roper is the grandson of Topeka's homophobic Reverend Fred Phelps, known for picketing funer-als of people with AIDS. Phelps has threatened to picket San Francisco's Gay Pride Parade.

Francisco's Gay Pride Parade.
Senator Dianne Feinstein is emerging as the leading foe of the firearms industry in Washington. "She's showing the NRA and their lobbyists that she's not at all afraid of them," one reporter remarked on This Week With David Brinkley last Sunday. Incidentally, look for Feinstein to endorse Jordan for reelection soon.

It was only a couple of weeks

It was only a couple of weeks ago that Larry Kramer was in town and told me Barbra Streisand was at that very moment making plans to produce, direct, and oversee the production of Kramer's The Normal Heart. However, Streisand, a true friend of the gay community, told Larry King last week that she couldn't raise the money (she doesn't already have enough of her own?) or get actors to do the AIDS movie, so this looks like it is probably going to be on an "indefinite hold."

News you don't like to hearnational health officials are reporting a dramatic rise in AIDS among gay men who are either black or Hispanic, or who live outside leading urban gay communities such

ing urban gay communities such as San Francisco and New York.

If the overflow crowd at Friday's Fairmont Hotel luncheon

for District Attorney Arlo Smith means anything, it means that those thinking of opposing the vet-

means anything, it means that those thinking of opposing the veteran top prosecutor would be smart to forget about it.

The Clinton administration's announcement last week (why do I sense the strong hand of Janet Reno in this?) that it will conveniently stay out of a Supreme Court battle over whether states and cities can deprive lesbians and gays of legal protection against discrimination looks pretty cowardly to me. Reno afraid to fight for the basic civil rights of gays and lesbians? I hear closet doors slamming all over D.C.

Roberta Achtenberg's mayoral kickoff fundraiser will be at the Zuni Cafe on Monday, June 19, 6-8 p.m. Call 648-1872 for more information on this happenin' event.



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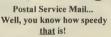
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DYKEOTOMY

Soulful scents and sounds

by Elissa Perry

roovy beats, fierce eats, and a funky bass for a loving race. These words only begin to describe a too short performance by musi-cians Kofy Brown MC and Kali in collaboration with Bay Area poet Samiya A. Bashir last Sunday

Samiya A. Bashir last Sunday night.

The collaborative spoken-word pieces presented by the trio put a funky twist on an age-old tradition. You may think, argh, poetry and music so what, that's been done before (I used to), but you haven't heard these three.

The bluesy jazz-hop backup by Kofy Brown on bass guitar and keyboards and Kali on drums was a refreshing mix of beats and

keyboards and Kail on drums was a refreshing mix of beats and musical styles that in the end created a style all their own. If the best scents of my childhood had a sound, they would sound like this. It was soul food, pomade, musk,

and Halston all rolled into one.

The melodic fusion of these sensations of smell (closely connected to taste) and hearing provided the perfect canvas on which Bashir could paint her images. And paint she did. Her words and varies blanded beautifully in the blended beautifully in lilt-

Commentary

ing, sweeping and jabbing motions to bring her work to life with colorful movement and feeling. Now that was some poetry!

ing. Now that was some poetry!

All of the music for the evening was written by Kofy Brown, and the poetry was by Bashir. The event took place at Chocolate Sundays, a Sunday evening club for women at Jelly's, a relatively new club at 295 China Basin Way. The spot used to be known as Olive Oyl's, but has changed owners and now names.

Chantal, producer of Chocolate Sundays, emphasizes that the party is for everyone, but especially for lesbian and bisexual women of color. Chantal also does Red, a Tuesday night party for women with seriously funky DJs at Blondie's Bar and No Grill.

Noticeable abs

AUTOS · BIKES · RV'S

Noticeable absence
Organized by Chantal and the
Black Girl Collective, the June 11
performance was part of the collective's Black Pride/Gay Pride celebration. The women involved in the productions of the club and

the Black Girl Collective have felt the absence of the voices of black lesbians and bisexual women in the Bay Area and have begun to fill that void.

"We have not been included in past pride celebrations. So this

past pride celebrations. So this time, instead of pushing for inclu-sion, we are doing it ourselves," BGC founder Robin Reneé explained.

Not all the performers on Sunday night were queer. Kofy Brown MC is straight (which is so Brown MC is straight (which is so unfortunate because sistergirl is fine!), but she ain't narrow. "It's all good," she said about what the collective is doing.

(For those of you unfamiliar with current lingo, "It's all good" in this context can mean a few things. paicielly either "Whoever."

in this context can mean a few things – basically either "Whoever sisters love, it's all good," "Love and happiness is all good no mat-ter who you find it with," or "I'm down for my sisters no matter who they love." Got it?)

The 15-member Black Girl Celloctive has external more system.

Collective has several more events Collective has several more events planned in June to celebrate Black Pride/Gay Pride, including readings, parties and workshops. Check the sidebar for details.

As for the collaborative trio of Kofy Brown MC, Kali and Bashir,

keep an eye out for their next prokeep an eye out for their next production; it will be one you won't want to miss. Kofy Brown MC will be performing solo at Cafe du Nord on Monday, June 19, and Samiya Bashir will be performing at Luna Sea on June 23 and 24 as a part of the BGC production That Black Gil. Black Girl. V

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Black Pride/Gay Pride Upcoming Events

Friday, June 16
Opening Night
Black Girl Collective
An exhibit by Bay Area black lesbian and bisexual women visual artists. Opening night features a artists. Opening night features a reception and performances by Samiya A. Bashir, Andrelle Johnson, Imani, LaRonda and others. 509 Cultural Gallery (1007 Market St. at Fifth). 7:30 p.m. Call (510) 419-0688 for more

Saturday, June 17 Dyke March

Dyke March
Yes, many of us await this weekend all year, and for those of us
who don't...we have a reason to
now! The Black Girl Collective is
gonna show the Bay what a Pride
Party is! Look for (and join) our
contingent in the march, and come
and celebrate with the collective
and LA's (possibly the world's)
fiercest band Strange Fruit!
Strange Fruit is coming up from Strange Fruit is coming up from the Southland to tear the roof off the funk. 509 Cultural Gallery (1007 Market St. at Fifth). 10 p.m. till you leave. \$5-10 sliding

Sunday, June 18

Gay Day All y'all that didn't join the Dyke March contingent, join in now! Black Pride/Gay Pride! The Black Girl Collective is hosting a salon at the 509 Cultural Gallery, right on the march route! **Doors open at** 10 a.m. Free.

Come chill, party, get down with us for the parade, then join us for another Pride Party at Jelly's (for-merly Olive Oyl's), featuring Strange Fruit! The party won't stop until the break of dawn. 295 China Basin Way. 10 p.m. until you leave. \$10-\$15 sliding

Wednesday, June 21 Interactive Solstice Ritual The official welcome into summer

95. Everyone come and welcome the new season in a positive envi-ronment. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. at Capp, Room 216C. 7 p.m. Women only.

Friday, June 23, and Saturday, June 24 That Black Girl Collective brings back its enormously popular pro-duction of That Black Girl for another long-awaited weekend. The show is an evening of solo performance and collaborative performance and consolvative works with poetry, music, dance and spoken word featuring Danielle Abrams, Adella, Samiya A. Bashir, Cara Page, Elissa Perry, Robin Reneé and Dawn Rudd. Luna Sea, 2940 16th St. at Capp, Room 216C. 8 p.m. \$10-\$15 slid-

Monday, June 26 Monday Night Poetry Series An insightful, poetic exploration of our personal relationships. Open mike will follow. 509 Cultural Gallery (1007 Market St. at Fifth). 7:30 p.m. S5-S10 sliding

Wednesday, June 28 FIREWORDS: Black Lesbian and Bisexual Women Read

and Bisexual Women Read Erotica Good Vibrations and the Black Girl Collective This night begins with a reception and tour of the store and its many erotic pleasures, hosted by Dawn Rudd. A saucy, spicy reading of erotica you won't easily forget fol-lows. Good Vibrations, 2504 San Pablo Ave at Dwight, Berkeley. Pablo Ave. at Dwight, Berkeley. \$5-\$10 sliding scale. Women only. All women welcome.

Thursday, June 29

Movie Night Short films by and for black les-bians in the Bay Area and the world. Check out what the sista akers are doing and saying BUILD, 483 Guerrero, 7:30 p.m.

Is a Rejection of Gay Pride Ahead in Alameda?

A Gay Pride Month resolution is creating political hay in the city of Alameda, according to a group lobbying the Alameda City Council for its passage. For now the resolution has been placed on the agenda for the council's June 20 meeting.

the agenda for the council's June 20 meeting.

Kathy Teller of the group Out on the Island told the B.A.R. early indications from Mayor Ralph Appezzato are that he is both fearful of recognizing the rights of homosexuals and of losing his standing in the community. Councilwoman Karin Lucas

reportedly told Teller that a resolution of this type would be like celebrating "Celibacy Month." Christine Allen, also of Out on the Island, said that Councilman

Lil Arnerich reminded her that the resolution was partly to blame for ex-Mayor Bill Withrow's ouster from office. She told the B.A.R. from office. She told the B.A.R. that Arnerich has also already given the group his thumbs-down on the issue, partially because it's "too political" an issue for the council to get involved in.

Allen commented to the B.A.R., "Can you imagine that? A politician saying he doesn't want to do something because it would

require taking a political stand?"

Last year, then-Mayor Bill
Withrow placed a Gay Pride resolution on the agenda and it was
passed without comment.
However, a firestorm of hatred
and controversy erupted for the
next six months in the letters
pages of the city's main newspaper, the Alameda Times-Star.

Telephone calls to city councilmembers from the Bay Area
Reporter were not returned.

Reporter were not returned. However, Alameda city clerk Diane Felsch denied that a rejection of the resolution was already a done deal.

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BBER NECKERS ARE WELCOME





L.A. Sheriff Sherman Block To Ride in SoCal Pride Parade

by Karen Ocamb

Christopher Street West director Michael Christopher Street West director Michael Yates was almost beside himself with excitement in confirming that Los Angeles County Sheriff Sherman Block has accepted the invitation of the City of West Hollywood to ride in this year's CSW Gay & Lesbian Pride Parade on Sunday, June 25.

It will be the first time the Sheriff has openly supported the gay compunity.

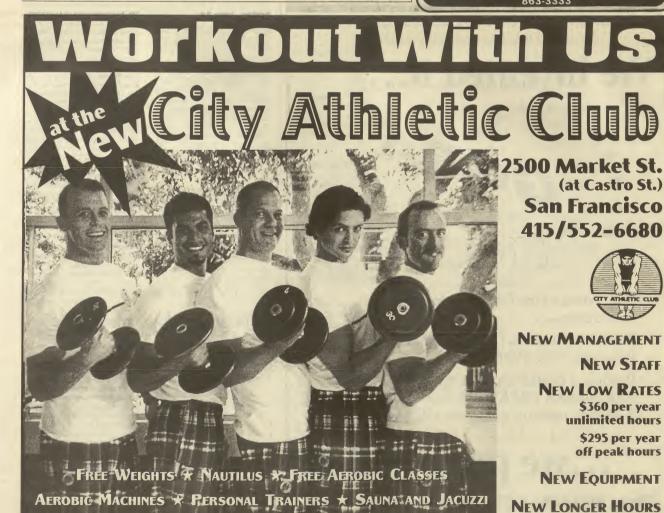
openly supported the gay community.

Yates also announced that the Post Office will have a mobile unit at the festival to issue

the new Marilyn Monroe stamps on special envelopes, with a special collector's com-memorative "cancellation" stamp featuring

memorative "cancellation" stamp featuring CSW's 25th anniversary.

LAPD Chief Willie Williams has been asked to ride in the parade, but he will be out of the city on that date. Meanwhile, law enforcement officers will be one of two color guards. L.A. Mayor Richard Riordan will again ride in the parade − the first time officially as mayor. Gays will remember that Riordan rode just after he was elected but before he was sworn in. ▼



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BUSINESS NEWS

Cruising down the river

by Kent Brandley

s Katie Scarlett O'Hara heard and learned, land is the only thing of value to some people. One rea-son: nobody's making any more of

Haven't most of us imagined a cozy home in an easy-going sort of place where we can just relax and enjoy one another's company Consider Guerneville, just an hour and a half away. Many gay and lesbian individuals and couples continue to buy houses along the Russian River in the hills and wooded dells of the somewhat J.R.R. Tolken-ish Guerneville

area.

Last Spring, broker Jeff
Morford and his partner Paul
Bombige bought River Vista
Realty in Guerneville, and now
"River Vista Realty is the only
gay-owned and -operated realty
firm in the Russian River Valley and in Western Sonoma County," according to Morford. Not only that, but River Vista Realty is the number one sales agency for sev-eral years running in the Russian River Valley.

"The Russian River continues to be the predominant gay get-away in Northern California," Morford told the B.A.R., "and we

are the predominant firm – and the only gay firm serving that market. "The season looks great," he added, "and the floods are a dis-

tant memory, with virtually all businesses and resorts reopened." Call River Vista Realty at (707) 887-2204 or (707) 869-



River Vista Realty's Jeff Morford.



SF chiropractor
Dr. Lowell Dwight Houser.

Backs to the Castro

You're only as old as you feel and Dr. Lowell Dwight Houser, well-known San Francisco chiro-practor, brims with eternal youth belying the fact that he will cele-



brate his 70th birthday – along with some other famous Geminis – with an open house at his 470 Castro Street office from noon to

Castro Street office from noon to 7 p.m. next Tuesday, June 20. A country boy from North Platte, Nebraska, Houser was born in a house built by his dad, joined the Navy when he was 18, and became a naval aviator. He got a degree in agriculture from Colorado State University and studied journalism at the University of Missouri.

In 1961 he spent his summer vacation in Hollywood, where he met Glenn Schmoll. They became, as Schmoll from the Rocky Mountains likes to say it,

became, as Schmoll from the Rocky Mountains likes to say it, "lifetime pardners." Schmoll is office manager and therapist in the chiropractic practice

chiropractic practice.

Houser graduated from Los
Angeles College of
Chiropractic in 1975, making
the dean's list although he
worked full time while attending school full time.

When Schmoll was transferred
San Ergneises, by the Los

to San Francisco by the Los Angeles Advocate, Dr. Houser fol-lowed in 1976, and has been here since. The chiropractic practice moved from its Polk Street loca-tion in 1982 to the present Castro

In addition to his brisk prac-In addition to his orisk practice, Houser designs and builds furniture, enjoys kayaking, and works out at the City Athletic Club, as well as doing Qi Gong and aerobics. He gets his spiritual exercises at the Church of Religious Science, saying, "It's when the second the control of the contr Religious Science, saying, "It's where we are taught how to think - not what to think - and it is completely non-judgmental, which has a strong appeal for me."

If you're 20, but feel 70, call Dr. Houser - who's 70 and feels 20 - at (415) 552-

9300.

Cooing with doves

La Paloma (The Dove), a rela-La Paloma (1 he Dove), a relatively new bakery and cafe that opened at 4416 18th Street in the Castro March 12, is warm, stylish, and welcoming. Partners Eddie Fisher (no Debbie Reynolds jokes, please) and Tony Leberto come from diverse backgrounds; Eddie has been a public account. come from diverse backgrounds: Eddie has been a public accountant in the Castro for more than 15 years, and Tony is the masterful chef. He worked at Restaurante Ecco, Postrio, and The Acorn, and opened Rubicon in the winter of 1994.

La Paloma, a pleasant place to coo, features a wide array of special house-made pastries, soups, salads, sandwiches, gourmet coffee for and freshly salads, sandwiches, gourmet cof-fees, fine loose teas, and freshly squeezed juices. They bake all of their own delicacies with a menu updated weekly to reflect chang-ing seasonal fruit and produce. They also cater, including parties, business functions, and private dinners. Tony and Eddie invite you to drop by.

Call La Paloma at (415) 863-2237. ▼

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Phone the GGBA Office for details (415) 441-3651.

'Score a strike, spare a life' AIDS Bowl-A-Thon June 17

by Kent Brandley

Celebrities from around the Bay Area will participate in the first "Score a Strike Spare a Life" AIDS Bowl-A-Thon to raise funds for the AIDS Project of the East Bay on Saturday, June 17.

The Bowl-A-Thon which organizers say will be an annual event – is to be held at Albany Bowl, located at 540 San Pablo Avenue

in Albany, from noon until 4 p.m. Teams will be com-prised of six members each, and each bowler is asked to solicit pledges of \$100 per person or more. Prizes and trophies will be awarded in various categories.

For more information call the AIDS Project of the East Bay at (510) 834-8181.

media milestone

by Al Kielwasser

ccording to its producers, the 13 episodes of the 13 episodes of Network Q: Out Across America have made "broadcast history" as "the first weekly gay television

The series premiered June 8th on Denver PBS station KBDI. The series will be distributed via satellite (and at no cost) to PBS stations nationwide. Urge your local PBS outlet to pick up this and other lesbian/gay/bisexual pro-

For more information about Out Across America, contact Network Q, 4001 S. Decatur #367, Las Vegas, NV 89103, tel. 800-368-0638, e-mail networkQ@aol.com. To mail networkQ@aol.com. To contact local PBS stations about running Network Q, call Mary Bitterman, President, KQED Channel 9, President, KOED Channel 9, 2601 Mariposa Street, San Francisco, CA 94110, tel. 415-864-2000, fax 415-553-2456; David Hosley, General Manager, KCSM-TV, 1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd., San Mateo, CA 94402, tel. 415-574-6586, fax 415-574-6299; and KTEH-TV, 100 Skyport Drive, San Jose, CA 95110-1301, tel. 408-437-5454. 437-5454

Elsewhere in the country, contact Ervin Duggan, President & CEO, PBS, 1320 Braddock Place, Alexandria, VA 22314, tel. 703-739-5000, fax 703-739-5295.

Abby apologizes

In her May 5 column, "Dear oby" (Abigail Van Buren) gave Aboy (Abigaii van Buren) gave some rotten advice to a man who was upset about "ugly" rumors that he might be gay. Abby agreed that such talk (and, by implication, being gay) was indeed "ugly." She condemned the "ugly accusations" without condemning or even mentioning - homopho-

In response, the popular advice columnist received lots of advice herself – from lesbian and gay let-ter writers. "It is *prejudice* that is ugly – not being gay," one reader wrote. "I believe you owe all of us

an apology."

To her credit, Van Buren printed a number of similar letters in her June 2 column, and she *did* apologize. She wrote: "Anyone who has read my column for any length of time knows that not only length of time knows that not only am I not homophobic but for decades I have spoken out to promote understanding and acceptance of gays and lesbians. You have my profound apology. I completely agree with your statement that what is ugly is prejudice – not one's sexual orientation."

Send compliments to Abigail Van Buren, "Dear Abby," P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Cyberphobia

Rumors that a 16-year-old boy had been "lured" to San Francisco by an "older" gay man – using the America OnLine (AOL) computer service – fueled a rush of paranoid and homophobic news reports. The San Francisco Examiner ran a piece on "prowling through the Internet." KGO-TV's (Channel 7) morning news broadcast the story, using – as background footage – images of someone searching AOL's "Gay & Lesbian Community Forum" (suggesting that the bulletin board is really a pedophile playground, which it is definitely not).

As it turned out, the "older" gay man was actually another

teenage boy. The mainstream media have been less anxious to tell that part of the story.

Missing from these and many other accounts was any serious investigation into the boy's home investigation into the boy's home life. The press was anxious to question how the boy could be lured from his home by a pedophile. But no one asked how he could have been driven from his home by homophobic parents. That, after all, is the more common – and yet less reported upon – situation. situation

- situation.

Unfortunately, this current spate of cyber phobia will only feed the censorious frenzy surrounding the Internet. For example, the latest (May 1995) issue of "Family Voice" — magazine of the Right Wing "Concerned Women for America" — warns readers: "The Internet has become the latest avenue for pornography to slip into the home. But now the state and federal governments are ready to crack down on this latest assault on the family." And, assault on the family." And, indeed, Senator James Exon (D-NE) has already introduced the first of an inevitable series of legislative efforts to ban "obscenity"

islative efforts to ban "obscenity" on the Internet.

It's impossible to avoid the uneasy feeling of déjà vu. Censors have always been suspicious of the pleasures of children. In his 1954 book Seduction of the Innocent, psychiatrist Frederic Wertham panicked the nation—and the U.S. Congress—with his lurid tales of how popular comic books could lead children into homosexuality and murder. Such books could lead children into homosexuality and murder. Such irrational fears and fantasies have been raised in regard to every medium popular with the young, from movies to music. Now, it's the modem. For lesbian, gay and bisexual youth this issue is nothing less.

youth, this issue is nothing less than a matter of life and death. Often isolated and despised by both family and society, these youth may find a lifeline in the on-line world of the Internet.

line world of the Internet.
• Encourage the press to tell the real story. Contact your local news outlets, and Phil Bronstein, Editor, San Francisco Examiner, 110 5th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, tel. 777-2424, e-mail sfexaminer@aol.com; Jim Topping President KGOTV Topping, President, KGO-TV, 900 Front Street, San Francisco, CA 94111, tel. 954-

Style guidance

Ron Rapoport writes a sports column for the Los Angeles Daily column for the Los Angeles Daily News, and he also appears each Saturday on National Public Radio's "Weekend Edition." In his June 2 Daily News column ("Sports Zone"), Rapoport offers his perspective on the recent death of Glenn Burke, a major league baseball player who was gay and had AIDS.

Rapoport's column is fairly.

had AIDS.

Rapoport's column is fairly intelligent, and he makes several important points. He notes the homophobia that rages through professional sports, and that keeps most lesbian and gay athletes locked firmly in the closet. "The obituaries seem to imply that when Burke died Tuesday night he was the first major-league hasewhen Burke died Tuesday night he was the first major-league base-ball player to succumb to AIDS," Rapoport writes, "but this is not the case." Rather, he points out, "Burke was the first player to admit to being gay and contracting the disease and therein lies a crucial difference."

Despite what seem to be his good intentions, however, Rapoport's column is marred by two stylistic problems that plague lots of newsprint. First, Glenn Burke did not — as Rapoport

writes — "admit to being gay."
Burke came out. He said he was gay. And that's an important difference. As long as reporters improperly use phrases like "admit to being gay" or "an admitted lessian," homosexuality is treated less as a sexual orientation and more like a criminal offense.

Rapoport also writes: "Burke

Rapoport also writes: "Burke did not get AIDS from having sex with women or from a blood transfusion or even from an infecttransfusion or even from an infected needle while taking drugs. He
got it in what is by far the most
common way. He got it from gay
sex." Certainly, gay men are a
community besieged by the HIV
plague. But no one ever got HIV
or AIDS from "gay sex." People
contract the virus through unprotected or unsafe sex with an HIV-positive individual. This all-too-common media misstep only reinforces the homophobic notion that "gay sex" is inherently dirty, diseased or even deadly.

• Rapoport and other well-

intentioned journalists want to do better; they just need some advice on how to do it. Send feedback to Ron Rapoport, The Daily News, P.O. Box 4200, Woodland Hills, CA 91365, tel. 818-713-3000, fax 818-713-3723.

A credible film

This summer, theater screens will light up with a new film from writer/director (and ACT UP activist) Maria Maggenti. The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls In Love tells the comic tale of first love between two young women during their Senior year of high school

high school.

Laurel Hollmon plays "Randy Laurel Hollmon plays "Kandy Deam" – a working class "tomboy" who lives with her les-bian aunt and her aunt's lover. She falls in love with "Evic Roy" – "one of the most popular girls in school" – who is played by Nicole Parker. Major motion pictures sel-dom (if ever) celebrate lesbian dom (if ever) celebrate lesbian, gay, or bisexual teen relationships. Fine Line Pictures deserves sup-port for the decision to distribute this breakthrough film.

• Contact Sarah Eaton, Fine Line Pictures, 888 7th Avenue, New York, NY 10106, fax 212-956-1942.

Media briefs

• Misinformation Bulletin ... The Bulletin of the National Association of Research and Therapy of Homosexuality (NARTH) is a source of much homophobic misinformation. For a free copy (along with other "information" on "healing homosexuality"), call 318-789-4440. Incidentally, NARTH's annual conference is scheduled for July 29, in San Francisco.

* Sound Bite ... "I visualize being with another man" (San Antonio Spurs forward Dennis Rodman – who also says he goes to gay bars – in a recent Sports Illustrated cover story). \(\Psi\)

We must confront homophobia in order to cure it! To notify GLAAD-SFBA of any defamatory or affirmative media coverage call our 24-hour media watch hotline at 415-861-4588, or write to "Media Watch," Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation-San Francisco Bay Area, 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco CA 94103; tel. 415-861-2244, fax (415) 861-4893, e-mail GLAADSFBA@ AOL.COM.



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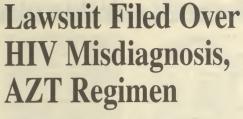
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by Dennis Conkin

A San Mateo County man who was misdiagnosed with HIV infection in 1988 and put on AZT – even though he had a T-cell count of more than 1,000 – has filed a million dollar lawsuit against his former healthcare providers. providers.

providers.

Lon Blatteau, formerly of Tacoma, Washington, filed the suit alleging medical negligence in the Pierce County, Washington Superior Court last month, after being treated for HIV for six years.

Blatteau is a former hospice nurse who was tested at the Pierce County, Washington, Health Department in September 1988 on the advice of his physician.

Department in September 1988 on the advice of his physician.

"Mr. Blatteau was told that the test result was positive," San Francisco attorney Paul Wotman told the Bay Area Reporter. "He became quite depressed because he thought he only had a few years to live and would become quite ill.

"He was told he had AIDS and was tessed; in their beatthers are

was treated in their healthcare system for five and a half years as though he had HIV infection," Wotman said.

Wotman said.

Blatteau suffered severe side effects while taking AZT, including nausea, headaches, and vomiting. He moved to the Bay Area in 1994 and discovered that he was

misdiagnosed after he applied for AIDS healthcare services through San Mateo County.

Stunned to learn he was negative
In order to meet the eligibility criteria for such assistance, Blatteau first took another HIV test as part of an initial medical work-up of his condition.
"He was stunned when he learned the test was negative," Wotman said. "As second test several months later in July 1994 confirmed the negative result."

Blatteau had abandoned the pursuit of his career because he

Blatteau had abandoned the pursuit of his career because he believed he was dying.

According to Wotman, the emotional reality of the misdiagnosis has been overwhelming and difficult for Blatteau to accept.

"It was a very, very devastating experience for my client, and he deserves to be compensated," Wotman said.

Blatteau's complaint seeks damages for financial loss and physical damages related to years of treatment with unnecessary AIDS drugs. He also seeks monetary damages for emotional distary damages for emotional dis-

tress.
Wotman is being assisted in the Washington litigation by attorney Robert Rohan, one of the founders of the Seattle AIDS Foundation. ▼



Chowing down: Some of last year's retreat participants

Deposit deadline Friday Registration **Underway for MCC** Marin Retreat in July

by Kent Brandley

Men who want to spend the weekend of July 7-9 participating in the annual men's retreat of Metropolitan Community Church at Walker Creek Ranch Conference Center should be aware the final deadline for their deposit is this Friday, June 16.
"The retreat will be an empowering weekend for rest and recharging," promised Steve Marlowe, MCC church office manager. It will be held at the ranch in comfortable accommodations located on 1,700 acres of serene rolling hills in western Marin County.
"Reviving the Spirit" is the

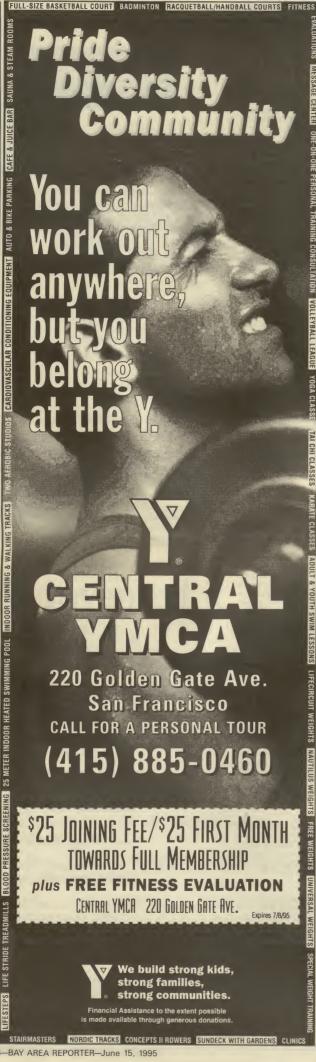
'Reviving the Spirit" is the

theme of this year's retreat, according to Patrick Shortle, MCC Men's Retreat Committee

chair.

All men are welcome,
Marlowe and Shortle said,
whether they are church members
or not. Cost for the retreat, including two nights lodging and all
meals for the weekend, is \$110.
The deposit of \$40 is non-refundable, and due by Friday. Bus fare
to the ranch from Metropolitan
Community Church of San
Francisco, located at 150 Eureka
Street, is \$5. ▼

For registration forms or more information, call Steve Marlowe at (415) 863-4434.



Hospice Needs Hairdressers For Terminally Ill Homebound

Hairdressers are trying - but without much success - to get other professional haircutters to volunteer to trim the hair of men

volunteer to trim the hair of men who are homebound and terminally ill with cancer or AIDS.

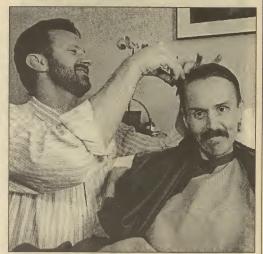
Dan Kuziej, a professional hairdresser and certified nursing attendant at Maitri Zen Hospice, a non-profit facility located at 273 Page Street in the city, has been adjusted in the city, has been adjusted in the city of the form of the city of the c volunteering his own time for a period of months and has been active in the ongoing effort to recruit others.

The need for haircutters for the

In need for harcutters for the homebound has been emphasized by the Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco. Pat Bregant, volunteer coordinator for VN&H, told the Bay Area Reporter, "We've gotten only two in the last several months," and the list of people requesting haircute. list of people requesting haircuts has grown to seven or ten at this time. "Lots of homebound people need haircuts," she said.

need haircuts," she said.
"The people in the haircutting
business are really submerged in
this [AIDS] epidemic," Bregant
told the B.A.R. Many hairdressers
are deeply saddened by the deaths
of close friends and lovers, she
observed, and many have been or
are stricken with the virus themselves

Another problem in recruiting volunteers is that after working all day in the profession it requires considerable dedication to spend off-time cutting hair, Bregant observed.



Tress trimmer: Dan Kuziej takes his shears to Maitri's Chris Lamas,

Some of the homebound are able to pay, but even with a financial incentive, it has been difficult finding haircutters who will go to

the patient's home.
Visiting Nurses and Hospice of
San Francisco serves several hundred people each month, and this

is one of several areas where help is badly needed. ▼

If you are a qualified haircutter and wish to volunteer, call Pat Bregant at (415) 861-8705.

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GAPA HIV Project Changes Name, Honors Local Asian Heroes

by Kent Brandley

The GAPA Community HIV Project (GCHP) has changed its name to the Living Well Project: Asian and Pacific Islander AIDS Services. The name change was announced at the first Visibility Campaign Awards Reception last Wednesday, June 7. The change in name was partly motivated by the Wednesday, June 7. The change in name was partly motivated by the need to recognize the difference between the Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA), a membership organization, and GCHP. "Living Well is what we do and who we are," said executive direc-tor Steve Lew. "Living Well sym-bolizes the holistic nature of our

bolizes the holistic nature of our work, and our vision of wellness for the whole community of Asians and Pacific Islanders."

Four local Asian heroes were honored at the June 7 awards reception for their work in the fight against AIDS in the first Visibility Campaign Awards

Reception.

Joseph Balaoro received the "Positive Living Award," and was recognized as "one of the few HIV-positive Asian or Pacific Islander youth who is out about his status," Balaoro began speaking out on HIV in 1992 at age 22, initially focusing on the Filipino community. "I wanted to give a face to HIV. I felt that

ed to give a face to HIV. I relt that this was a powerful message to help prevent someone else from getting this virus," Balaoro said. Carole Hayashino received the "Community Ally Award," on behalf of herself and other pro-gressive members of the Japanese American, Citizens, League American Citizens League (JACL). Hayashino was a member of the JACL national staff and was instrumental in organizing educational efforts when, in 1994, JACL became the first national civil rights organization to adopt a resolution supporting the concept of marriage as a constitutional right not to be denied because of a person's sexual orientation. The agency itself was honored by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force for its work toward the adoption of the JACL resolution.

adoption of the JACL resolution.

Crystal Jang was honored with the "Visibility Campaign Award."

Jang first began speaking out publicly as a lesbian more than 20 years ago. Jang has worked for San Francisco Unified School District for more than 25 years. She is one of two people who counsel gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth and is active in development of a new youth HIV outreach program with the Living Well Project. She says that interacting with youth gives her "a sense of hope, and a sense of saving lives."

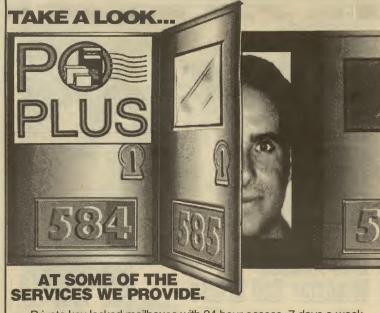
youth gives her "a sense of hope, and a sense of saving lives."

Tamara Ching received the "Volunteer Award" for her leadership within the transgender community and for her past three years service as a volunteer for GCHP. Ching focuses on transgender and Asian/Pacific Islander in the past three pasts of three issues, especially on matters of civil and human rights and HIV-related concerns.

Organizers said the Visibility

Campaign operates on the princi-ple that "We can't stop HIV until we can talk about it. We can't talk about it without encountering homophobia. We can't stop HIV until we stop homophobia."

For more information on the Living Well Project: Asian and Pacific Islander AIDS Services, call (415) 575-3939.



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COMMUNITY NEWS



Rainbows Over the Castro

The Rainbow Flags were out in force in San Francisco's gayest district prior to last year's weekend parade festivities.

Clinton

Continued from page 1

Weld, the pro-gay Republican Governor of Massachusetts and former Justice Department offi-cial. "It simply cannot be legal to say we are going to carve out one class of citizens and say they're not entitled to equal protection of

onto entitled to equal protection of the law."

"The Department's rationalization that there is no important federal interest in this case is simply incomprehensible," said Matthew Coles, Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) National Gay and Lesbian Project, which is assisting in the appeal. "Equal protection under the federal Constitution is and always has been the principle in the case."

Coles believes "the Department of Justice has sacrificed a cherished constitutional

ficed a cherished constitutional principle for political expediency. In years to come, those who made this decision will look back on it

this decision will look back on it with shame and embarrassment."
"The President denounced these types of ballot measures last year," said Kerry Lobel, deputy director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). "It's disturbing to see the President reject this chance to back up those comments with decisive action."
"Staying silent in this case gives aid and comfort to extremists who wouldn't support the

gives aid and comfort to extremists who wouldn't support the President under any circumstances, and gravely disappoints fair-minded Americans," said Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF).

Campaign Fund (HRCF).
"After this and the gays in the
military debacle," said attorney
Suzanne Goldberg with the
Lambda Legal Defense and
Education Fund, "it will be very
difficult for the administration to
regain the support of the gay and
lesbian community."

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Clinton and gays: a chronology

- "What I came here today to tell you in simple terms is, I have a vision and you're a part of it. We are all part of the same community and we better start behaving as if we are." candidate Bill Clinton to a Hollywood crowd of gays and lesbians, July, 1992.
- "I am a strong supporter of civil rights for gays and lesbians, as I am for all Americans. ... I think that if my position on the civil rights bill is read in the context of my commitment to the rights of gays and lesbians my call for a repeal of the ban on gays and lesbians serving in the military, and pledge to issue an executive order if elected prohibiting discrimination against gays and lesbians in federal hiring and contracting it will be clear that I am fundamentally committed to the protection of the rights of gay and lesbian Americans." Clinton in a letter to Human Rights Campaign Fund co-chair Randy Close, February 13, 1992.
- "Those who would legalize discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or any other grounds are grave-ly mistaken about the values that make our nations strong. The essential right to equality must not be denied by a bal-lot initiative or otherwise." Clinton in a letter to William Wayburn, executive director of the Victory Fund, February 14, 1994.
- "This was a matter in which we were not a party ... and we have decided not to participate." Clinton administration Attorney General Janet Reno announcing in a press conference that the Justice Department would not file a "friend of the court" brief in opposition to Amendment Two, June 8, 1995.
- "The President understands the reasoning of the attorney general and he fully supports her reasoning and her determination that the government not file on this case." White House press secretary Mike McCurry, June 8, 1995.

Local ACT UP **Demands Fleming's Head**

ACT UP/Golden Gate called for the resignation of Clinton Administration AIDS czar Patsy Fleming and the abolition of the Office of National AIDS Policy on Tuesday, June 7. The group made the announcement following a meeting with Fleming aide Jeff Levy at Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco office.

The activist group believes that the office is "a waste of tax dollars" and says the funds for the office should be given to National Institutes of Health research and to federal AIDS housing programs.

grams.

According to ACT UP/Golden Gate spokesman
Matthew Sharp, the Office of National AIDS
Policy is "a buffer and a public relations vehicle to
defend President Clinton's lukewarm AIDS poli-

Sharp said the group believes the ONAP has no budget authority or cabinet access, and that its staffers are nothing more than "apologists for the Clinton administration." Fleming was selected by a search committee that she headed, to replace former AIDS policy

director Kristine Gebbe, who was forced to resign last year after mounting pressure from AIDS

activists.

"We are proud of the administration's record on AIDS," said Levy, a onetime gay activist. "And we think this office has played an important role."

Levy said the call for Fleming's resignation "was unfortunate" and said the Clinton administration's record on HIV and AIDS "turned around proceed the added of consequence that HDS with the consequence that more than a decade of governmental AIDS policies that were at best apathetic to people with AIDS."

Activists say Fleming is relatively invisible in

"Fleming hasn't even been a figurehead sup-porting AIDS research. No one knows her name. If she can't be seen and she can't be heard, she has a duty to resign," said ACT UP/Golden Gate mem-ber Michael Lauro.

ACT UP/Washington called for Fleming's res-nation in April after she revoked mandatory ignation in April atter she revokeo manoacury. AIDS prevention programs in several federal agencies. According to San Francisco activists attending the June 13 meeting with White House officials, Fleming said she is the mother of a gay son. ▼

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Rubber Gloves Continued from page 1

the incident was "totally unac-

ceptable."
"It's no better than what we had from the D.C. police as activists in the '80s," he said.
"And this is a kinder, gentler administration? This is beyond outrageous. It makes one really question the level of commitment and understanding of this.

outrageous. It makes one really question the level of commitment and understanding of this administration and the people who work for it."

Details of the meeting which consisted of a briefing by officials and a question and answer period – were sketchy at press time, although Supervisor Susan Leal, who organized the meeting, told the B.A.R. she "was frustrated" by the caution of the administration in taking leadership roles on key lesbian and gay rights and other progressive political issues.

Leal attended the meeting, as did San Francisco Community College Trustee Leslie Katz and Supervisor Carole Migden.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and ILS Husting and

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala and U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros attended the briefing, along with AIDS czar Patsy Fleming, White House Counsel Abner Mikva, and Laura Tyson of the President's Economic Council.

Later that day the White House was expected to

Later that day the White House was expected to announce the formation of a 30-member national AIDS advisory council, but abruptly postponed the announcement for at least two days. Some gay and lesbian and AIDS activists had called the original timing of the announcement a transof the announcement a trans-parent attempt to deflect criti-cism, both of the Clinton administration's AIDS policies and of its growing political dis-tance from lesbian and gay rights issues. rights issues

The administration's rela-tionship with the lesbian and gay community was severely strained earlier this week when it announced it would not file a legal brief urging the Supreme Court to rule Colorado's antigay Amendment Two unconstitutional. ▼



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COMMUNITY NEWS

SF Transsexual Sues Over

'Somehow as a female

by Dennis Conkin

A San Francisco transsexual has appealed a May 19 ruling by the city's Department of Industrial Relations, which said she's transgender – and not gay – and there-fore doesn't have a bias claim against her former boss.

Roberta Dunne says that her

against her former boss.

Roberta Dunne says that her case isn't that simple, that her boss and co-workers thought she was gay and discriminated against her because of the perception.

She also says that many contemporary medical experts, including several at the prestigious Johns Hopkins Medical Institute, believe that transexualism is "simply a medical response to profound homosexuality."

In her appeal, Dunne said, "A clear definition of the term refuting their evaluated and empirically studied reports must be established to exclude me from protection as a homosexual under Labor Code Section 1102.1."

A decision by the state director of the Department of Industrial Relations about her claim is expected in a couple of months, Dunne told the Bay Area Reporter.

Transgendered individuals have no specific state protections.

Transgendered individuals have no specific state protections against job and housing discrimination, but job discrimination against gay people is prohibited by state law.

Career in sheetmetal cut

Dunne filed the 1993 sexual orientation discrimination claim against Los Gatos-based Foothill Air Conditioning and Heating, Inc., where she had worked as a foreman, after a series of incidents

dents.

Dunne told the Bay Area
Reporter she was told by two
Foothill workers in April 1993
that another company foreman
came to them and said Dunne had
familine characteristics, was gay. feminine characteristics, was gay, and probably had AIDS – and that it was too dangerous for them to work near him.

The foreman also shared his concerns with other workers, Dunne said.

I am a sheetmetal foreman in "I am a sheetmetal foreman in a trade where it is common to sustain nicks and cuts, and I suspected that even the hint that I might have AIDS would effectively destroy my career," Dunne said.

The very next week, Dunne met with the owner of the company, expressed her concern over the

foreman's comments and told him that she was not gay – but was transsexual – and did not have

Although Dunne nau unumplanned to wait until retirement to initiate the gender transitioning process that culminates in sexual accomment surgery, she said Although Dunne had initially reassignment surgery, she said that the April incident changed those plans.

"There seemed to be no point in not transitioning, inasmuch as everyone now thought of me as somehow different," she said.

Dunne informed the owner of the firm of her situation and even offered to have an HIV test and

offered to have an HIV test and distribute the results to Foothill workers, so they wouldn't be afraid to work around her.

Although she says she now realizes such a move was "unnecessary and inappropriate," she said the owner of the company agreed with the plan and said he would was a site owners when it is a such as the said to be such as t send a inter-company memo clari-fying Dunne's situation, as well as stop the other foreman from



Roberta Dunne on her sex change "It's the one thing they can't take away from me."

spreading the lies.

But Dunne told the B.A.R. that shortly after she took the HIV test and began distributing the results to employees, the owner of the air conditioning firm went back on his needs to his word.

his word.

"When I told him, he told me to stop doing that, that I had no business bringing my personal life to work, [and] that employees who wanted to refuse to work with me – for whatever reason – that was their business and he would support it."

was their ousness and he would support it."

The owner of the company also refused to send out the promised memo explaining Dunne's gender issues to her fellow workers, she

Restroom refusal

The harassment continued, Dunne alleges, as the foreman kept telling workers she was gay and that it would look bad if they talked or worked with her and that she didn't deserve to be a fore-man. He also refused to use the

man. He also refused to use the same restroom.

Foothill owner Bob Davies eventually relieved Dunne of her field responsibilities and brought her back to the firm's in-house shop.

Davies continued to tell Dunne

that several workers didn't want to work with her because of "her lifestyle choice" and that he supported their right to do so.

And despite what she says is an "impeccable work record." Davies also started accusing Dunne of being late to work and other infractions – which she says were untrue, and were forms of petty harassyment. harassment.

harassment.
"There were other instances that were far more serious such as the times I was assigned work loads and schedules that were simply beyond human ability," she alleged.
Desperate to keep her job, Dunne says that she even worked without pay at times and struggled to survive the adverse work conditions while undergoing the gender transition.

transition.

construction worker

"My breasts weren't that big,"
Dunne told the B.A.R., "and I was letting my hair grow. I was a construction worker. I work in blue jeans and a work shirt. There was-n't that much physical difference," she said.

On November 11, 1993, after months of "profound humiliation and discrimination as a direct

Bias on Construction Job

my abilities had diminished...'

result of my perceived sexual ori-entation," according to Dunne, she was laid off.

The official excuse was lack of

work, and although Dunne filed a grievance with her union she later withdrew it when promised that she would be the first person hired back by Footbill

she would be the first person hired back by Foothill.

But discrimination in the workplace wasn't the only problem that Dunne was facing.

Shortly after she was laid off, Dunne learned that Sheetmetal Workers Union Local 104 had changed and republished its insurance plan – to exclude transsexual gender reassignment surgery from coverage.

gender reassignment surgery from coverage.

Many of her medical bills were being returned unpaid.

"It was certainly an interesting experience. I'll say that much," Dunne said.

Dunne contacted the Human Rights Commission and filed a complaint with the California Department of Industrial Relations; when Foothill violated its agreement to rehire her first. its agreement to rehire her first, she contacted a lawyer.

The union asked her not to sue,

but to file another grievance. A few days later the air conditioning manufacturer rehired her – on a part-time probationary basis at first, and then full-time for a specific project.

'Unacceptable

"Unacceptable for rehire"

"The conditions of my rehire were that I was not to talk about my personal or private life at work except at lunch or break," Dunne told the B.A.R., "and that as a male, I was a good worker – but somehow as a female my abilities had diminished and therefore it was essential that I prove myself." Dunne's health insurance was restored in March, 1994, but her health plan still refused to pay for any external surgery. She filed for bankruptcy in July 1994.

After what she termed "a difficult six months of employment," Dunne was laid off at the completion of the project, and deemed "unacceptable for rehire as a foreman."

Dunne again appealed to the state and her union.

In September 1994, a union

arbitrator ordered Foothill to rehire Dunne. However, she was not restored to her former position foreman and was not given

back pay.

In November 1994, just ten days before she was scheduled for sexual reassignment surgery at Stanford Hospital, the national sheetmetal contractor's association announced that it was unhap-py with the decision and wanted a joint arbitration.

On November 14, 1994, Dunne

On November 14, 1994, Dunne had sexual reassignment surgery at Stanford Hospital.

"It was wonderful and it's been wonderful ever since," she said.
"It's the one thing they can't take away from me."

The next month the contractor's association and the union deadlocked on whether Dunne should be paid an amount equal to what she would have made for three weeks if she had been rehired as required.

A national referee was request-

A national referee was requested to break the deadlock.

But Dunne, sensing that the imbroglio could drag on forever, thought she could work the problem out privately with Davies.

The did not serve the sensitive of the problem of

They did not agree on a written contract, but after Dunne dropped the grievance charges, Davies

agreed to rehire her yet again.

Meet the boss...

Meet the boss...

She was called back to work in March 1995, but assigned to work under the very foreman who told everyone she was gay and probably had AIDS and that people shouldn't work with her.

"My phase of the project was to run for seven days total, and then after a break of a week or two, it was to resume," Dunne said.

But she worked just one week and was not rehired – and the union was besieged by calls from Foothill workers complaining about her "perceived sexual orientation or supposed special class status."

A week later, having learned

shortly after her sex reassignment surgery that she had Hepatitis C, and uncertain about the health risks involved in her continued employment, the union removed Dunne's name from the work roster until she is medically cleared for work

She expects that clearance to arrive while she awaits the appeal

of the discrimination ruling.

In the meanwhile, as a member of the board of directors of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Celebration Committee, Dunne told the B.A.R. she has plenty to keep her busy while she awaits the decision.

decision.

The annual celebration is expected to draw half a million people this Sunday, June 18. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Urvashi's Coming to Town

by Dennis Conkin

Former National Lesbian and Gay Task Force director Urvashi Vaid will deliver the keynote address at the second annual Pride Utsav '95 on Friday, June 16.

The three-day international conference of

South Asian queers is set for June 15-17 at the University of California Mission Center, located at 1855 Folsom Street (at 15th Street).

Vaid, a pre-eminent gay liberation theorist, is one of the most prominent Indians in the United States, and was named last year by *Time* magazine as one of the top 50 young leaders in the country.

Other participants in the conference include London-based filmmaker Pratibha Parmar; Ashok Ravi, the founder of India's first lesbian and gay publication, Trikone; and Shivananda Khan, the founder of Shakti, Britain's lesbian and gay South

Asian group.

The conference will feature workshops and programs on subjects ranging from Internet activism to sexual self-esteem

The Friday night dinner and celebration featuring Vaid is open to the public, and tickets are available at \$50 each. ▼

For more information contact (408) 270-

Progressive gays to speak out, confront right wingers

by Kent Brandley

The Lesbian/Gay Labor Alliance and the Harvey Milk Lesbian/ Gay/Bisexual Democratic Club invite progressive lesbians and gay men to speak out Saturday, June 17 on a num-ber of important issues.

ber of important issues.
Speakers – including Kenya Briggs,
Angie Fa, Howard Wallace, Joselito
Laudencia, Leslie Manning, Pat
Norman, Roma Guy, Tommi AvicolliMecca, and Chris Romero – will discuss ways to confront the right wing's assault on immigrants, living standards, healthcare, affirmative action and our civil rights.

civil rights.

The event will be held from noon to 5 p.m. at the Health Care Workers Local 250 Hall, located at 973 Market Street, near Fifth Street, on the seventh floor.

There is no admission, and the public is urged to attend. ▼

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'95 Stonewall Honors to Four For Contributions to Community

by Kent Brandley

A gay man who stepped forward boldly to oppose Amendment Two in Colorado, a determined lesbian playwright in New York City, an innovative gay newspaper publisher in the Midwest, and a political organizer on the cutting edge of change in the nation's capital are the four 1995 recipients of The Stonewall Awards.

Fach of the four will get \$25,000 with postrings.

Each of the four will get \$25,000, with no strings attached, for their significant contributions to the

lesbian and gay community.

Named for the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion in New York, the awards are funded by the Anderson Prize Foundation, founded in 1990 in Chicago to promote education about and awareness of concerns of the

education about and awareness of concerns of the lesbian and gay community. Paul A. Anderson, who died in 1992 of AIDS-related causes at the age of 43, was a futures trader in Chicago and provided initial funding for the foundation, as well as a bequest of \$1.25 million to endow the prizes. After his death, Anderson's companion of 13 years, Allen A. Schuh, took the reins of the foundation, which still welcomes contributions by individual, organizational, and corporate donors. One of the four winners is chosen from the Northeast, South, Midwest and West sections of the nation.

This year's winners are Franklin Whitworth of Colorado Springs, executive director of grass roots political and educational organization Ground Zero; former San Francisco resident Mandy Carter, now grass roots organizer of black gays and lesbians in local Washington, D. C.



Mandy Carter

campaigns opposing the radical right; New York playwright and performer Peggy Shaw, who earned critical praise in London and New York for her and New York for her autobiographical play, You're Just Like My Father; and Jim Thomas, the former board member of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and publisher of the St. Louis

News-Telegraph,
Past San Francisco
award winners include
Martin Delaney of

Project Inform; Christian Haren, founder of The Wedge and The People with HIV in the Classroom Technical Assistance Project; and Pat Norman, executive director of the California AIDS Intervention Center.

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MacArthur Foundation Gives First Lesbian and Gay Grant

by Kent Brandley

New York City's MacArthur Foundation has awarded its first rouncation has awarded its rilesbian and gay grant to the Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues. The group's education and outreach efforts within the philanthropic and non-profit communities. "Lesbian and gay concerns "Lesbian and gay concerns the state of the state

"Lesbian and gay concerns represent the full spectrum of issues facing other disenfran-chised groups in the U.S.," said Nancy Cunningham, executive director of the Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues. "However, less than one issues. However, less than one tenth of one percent of total philanthropic dollars are awarded to lesbian and gay projects annually. Support from the MacArthur Foundation, one of the major foundations in the country its significant step. country, is a significant step toward advancing the rights and conditions for lesbians and gay

men."

The Working Group on Funding Lesbian and Gay Issues is an affinity group of the Council on Foundations and the Council on Foundations and the National Network of Grantmakers. The group was formed in response to the lack of visibility and funding of les-bian, gay, and bisexual issues, and works to increase the phil-anthropic community's knowl-edge and awareness of critical edge and awareness of critical funding needs with the queer

community.
The MacArthur Foundation is one of the largest private phil-anthropic foundations in the U.S. with assets of more than \$3 billion and annual grants of more than \$140 million. ▼

For further information. contact the Working Group at 166 E. 16th Street, 7th Floor, New York NY 10003. Phone (212) 475-2930.

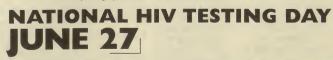


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the virus -- like most who are tested — it is important to learn how to better IF SO, TAKE THE TEST FOR HIV.

protect yourself in the future. If the results show you do have HIV, you can take steps to fight the virus. Early action can help prevent many illnesses and delay the onset of AIDS. This can lead to a longer and healthier life. Confidential or anonymous testing and counseling are strongly encouraged and available in most areas. To learn more about voluntary HIV testing and counseling, contact

an AIDS hotline, your physician, or a local health clinic.



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HEALTH COMMENTARY

Your pathogenesis, my pathogenesis

by G'dali Braverman ACT UP/Golden Gate Writers Pool

ith Pride Weekend at hand, the community once again is given that invaluable once again is given that invaluable opportunity to congregate and shop *en masse*. It is hard to imagine a celebration with more per capita T-shirt booths than that offered here in S.F. But not all chapters are locking for cascally offered here in S.F. But not all shoppers are looking for casual apparel. For people living with HIV/AIDS, the celebration offers the chance to "info shop" without having to brave the hell of community-based organizations voice mail systems: "Press 2 if you are on life support and seeking alternative treatments".

native treatments."

If you're looking for info on treatments, and don't want to be bogged down with lots of Xeroxed bogged down with lots of Xeroxed material to carry around during the day, there are several organizations that will probably have friendly people on hand to chat about whatever choices are confronting you. Take the opportunity to seek out ACT UP/Golden Gate, Periotet Leform the Washing Project Inform, the Healing

Alternatives Foundation, and the Community Consortium. Tidbits of info can be a great entree into more serious shopping for experimental treatments, and few places offer as many experimental trial options as San Francisco.

Something that may interest both the well-seasoned clinical trial shopper and the novice trial trial snopper and the novice trial peruser are studies that don't necessarily involve trying any new or experimental treatment at all. Lots of people still struggle with the idea of trying cutting edge therapies, especially since they may feel that they only have a vague understanding of how HIV is affecting their own physical condition (one's individual pathogenesis). If you subscribe to the "no news is good news" philosophy than you can probably go into a "skim and scan mode" for the rest of this article. If you're the kind of person who prefers to "know more," keep reading.

For those of you who are switching or adding antiretroviral peruser are studies that don't nec-

switching or adding antiretroviral therapies you might consider the currently enrolling Community Consortium study that offers you five free bDNA viral load tests. By

September, ACT UP/Golden Gate and The Healing Alternatives Foundation will offer a similar study, with six viral load tests over the course of ten weeks. Those tests standardly run \$200 each, and come insurance plans. and some insurance plans - like Kaiser's - refuse to offer such tests. Knowing the level of virus in your blood, as well as doing standard T-cell blood work, allows you and your doctor to make more regular and individually tailored treatment decisions. By participating in such studies you help to validate new measures of HIV and improve the standard of care for

improve the standard of care for the community.

There are plenty of other opportunities to learn more about your body while contributing to the advancement of HIV research, without committing a lot of time or energy. One such opportunity is an SFGH study that simply sentiscents to extend the standard with the contribution of the same of the standard with the contribution of the same of the same of the contribution of the same of the an SFGH study that simply requires that patients at any and all stages of disease give ten minutes of their time to get a CT-scan (a glorified X-ray) of the thymus: that's that lovely organ that serves as a T-cell factory.

By comparing the effect of HIV on the thymus glands of people at varying stages of disease we may better understand the potential role of immune-modulating

may better understand the potential role of immune-modulating therapies. Some related research is actually ready to roll, and would be rolling if not for recent FDA road blocks.

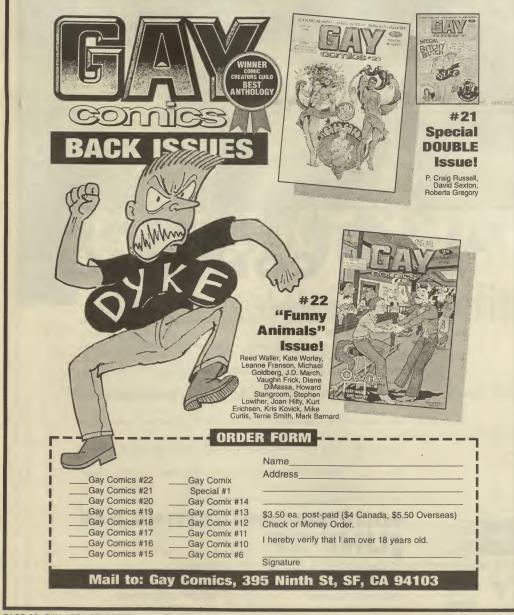
Other San Francisco-based studies that are pathogenesis-driven will be surfacing this year. Some of these studies may include lymph node biopsies or bone marrow biopsies. These are invasive and somewhat uncomfortable surfaced in the su and somewhat uncomfortable sur-gical procedures, but will offer us critical information about the effects of HIV outside the blood. Such information should be cru-cial to better understanding immune dysfunction and deter-

immune dystunction and determining which therapies can be utilized at varying stages of disease. For now, studies that may involve bone marrow biopsies only stand to offer more knowledge in advancing the field of HIV research. There is no immediate therapeutic benefit to natients. therapeutic benefit to patients. However, the potential to freeze off bone marrow stem cells for later use in gene therapy or cell stimulation/expansion therapy is

promising.
Some of us are always bound to be seeking cutting edge research, with or without a poten-tial therapeutic benefit being a component of an experimental study. As we find ourselves in an environment of ever-so-slightly improved standard of care, with just a few more choices every couple of years, it is essential that we continually remember that most of continually remember that most of these therapies show only short-term benefit. We must not rest on the laurels of a handful of drugs. We must separate the skepticism we may have towards pharmaceutically-driven research and remember that there is research out there that is wholly unattached to the development and sale of a product.

The time that we offer, the surveys we answer, the test tubes of blood that we give, the biopsy samples which we consent to have taken - these are our investments in our future. So this Pride Weekend make it your business to Weekend make it your business to learn more about your future in HIV treatments and research. Help us change the course of research so that next year we can be closer to "the celebration" we all seek. Happy Pride Week! Hope to see you at our booth!

ACT UP! FIGHT BACK!
FIGHT AIDS!



The few, the proud, the negative

bill has been introduced bill has been introduced in Congress to kick HIVers out of the military. It has yet to pass and much of this Congress' legislation is clearly not going to make it into law, but unless the bill is defeated unlikely – or is killed in a conference committee – more likely – or is vetoed by the president – don't hold your breath! – next year every service person with HIV will be witch-hunted from the ranks. the ranks

This is not a small issue. There are estimated to be about 20,000 members of the military with HIV, mostly healthy and mostly unsus-pected by their cohorts. The Department of Defense is doing a

large number of drug studies on HIVers in the military. In some ways it's surprising that the homophobic military that the homophobic military establishment has been so forbearing so far. But there is the Americans With Disabilities Act, which makes firing someone just because they have AIDS or HIV illegal. And there is the crusty military tradition that "the Army takes care of its own." This is a tradition that's bent under the stress of HIV and seems likely to soon break down.

I don't know how the Army has

I don't know how the Army has been handling HIVers so far. It seems likely that, even with "Don't ask, don't tell," an HIVer soldier might come under suspi-cion of homosexuality. But if that spectre doesn't rise up, most soldiers with the virus quietly take AZT (or one of the newer antivirals) and just keep on soldiering. The New York Times had no trouble finding any number of service people with HIV to interview for articles on the subject, though they weren't able to find any will-

ing to let them print their names!
Kicking HIVers out of the
Army is a bad idea for a number
of reasons. For one thing, it will make soldiers more reluctant to get tested and "come out" as HIVers. I assume that the military HIV tests its soldiers, but probably just once or at most once in a

while.

Now soldiers who test positive between their official Army tests will be very reluctant to share that information, delaying their own treatment in the process.

treatment in the process.

And, of course, there's always
the moral objection that this is
simply punishing the victim, kicking someone when they're down.
But this is, after all, the era of
Contracts on America; mean-spirited attacks on the helpless are the
order of the day. order of the day.

Sign of the times
It's a pity that our military is so shortsighted. Instead of kicking HIVers out of the Army, why not form them into a special unit? They could fight with chain saws and try to bleed on the enemy as and try to bleed on the enemy as much possible. Given the hysteria attached to AIDS, such a unit should send anyone opposing it

Commentary

into a complete panic.

It would also be easier to care for HIVers if they were all gathered into a single unit. The morning mess could include plenty of fresh fruit, yogurt, and AZT (or some more modern antiviral). Perhaps tasty snacks of Advera could be provided. I suppose pro-viding condoms is out of the question, given the Army's deter-minedly anti-sex attitude.

minedly anti-sex attitude. Instead, the legislation would simply force all HIVers in the Army onto the street, taking their skills and training with them. Details aren't yet available, but it's not clear if the discharged soldiers would be fired with "less than honorable" discharges, which would make them ineligible for veterans benefits. The loss of medical insurance and care would medical insurance and care would make getting discharged not just a hassle but actively life-threaten-

ing.
What's really depressing about the whole debate is that the needs and concerns of the soldiers with HIV seem to have completely dropped from sight. Sure, taking

care of military personnel with HIV is going to cost some money, but doesn't the Army have some obligation to its cannon fodder? If the Army does kick out all its HIVers, it will save some money, some hassle, but what about the human cost?

It's a sign of the times that this

It's a sign of the times that this issue hasn't come up in the con-gressional debates. Just as with the debates on cutting Medicaid or on school lunches, the entire focus on scinool functions, the entire focus is on how much can be saved to allow lower taxes for the rich, with no attention to the effects these cost-cuttings will have on the quality of life.

But the most depressing aspect of this latest attack on HIVers is that the prospects for vigorous defense against it seem so slim. We all saw what happened to Bill Clinton when he tried to champion gays in the military. Can you imagine Jesse Helms et al's

gays in the imitary. can you imagine Jesse Helms et al's response to an attempt to protect PWAs in the military?

Nor would I expect much help from the Clinton administration, which seems to have taken the wrong lesson from the whole gays-in-the-military flap. Clinton is staying far, far away from his liberal allies and one-time friends these days, preferring to cozy up to Newt Gingrich and his buddies.

A sign of where the Clinton administration is on gay issues these days came recently as Colorado's notorious Amendment 2 goes to the Supreme Court for its final decision. The administration declined to file any "friend of

its final decision. The administra-tion declined to file any "friend of the court" briefs against the amendment, preferring to sit out

amendment, preferring to sit out the debate altogether.

Administration officials, such as Janet Reno, describe the decision as being made strictly on legal grounds. But gay and lesbian activists in Washington have denounced the administration's reluctance to get involved as simple political cowardice. Given what we know about Bill Clinton, which explanation would you accept?

Any attempt to oppose the ban

Any attempt to oppose the ban

on HIVers in the military will probably have to be made in the courts. Nowadays the courts are the last line of defense of gay rights, given our increasing difficulties winning referendums and the rise in craven homophobia among chief executives. Gays in the military has gone to the Supreme Court, as has the right of gays to march in Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade and, as mentioned above, Colorado's Amendment 2. Amendment 2

It remains to be seen how gay issues will fare with the Supremes. They're not a notoriously liberal crowd, but they've thrown the conservatives for an occasional loop so far. Sandra Day O'Connor, chosen as a hard-core O'Connor, chosen as a hard-core conservative, got soft on abortion shortly after joining the court, and of course, Justice Souter is pretty widely held to be gay. This can cut both ways, of course, as closeted homosexuals are often the worst homophobes.

Having your rights have on

homophobes.

Having your rights hang on a Supreme Court decision seems pretty scary to me. I'm just glad – for any number of reasons – that I'm not in the Army. HIV aside, I don't think they'd like me, and I know that I don't like them.

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African-American Award Winners

LGADDA held its fourth annual celebration and awards banquet, "Speaking Our Colors," June 10 at The Grand Hyatt Union Square. From left to right are Dr. Robert Scott (Intercommunity Award), (Ret.) Sqt. Perry Watkins (seated) (Marlon Riggs Lifetime Achievement Award), event co-chairs Donald Tarver and Kenya Briggs, Rev. Yvette Flunder (Cultural Vision Award), Maria Salazar (Transcultural Award) and Gwenn Craig (Political Activism Award).

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Erik Jaeger May 15, 1939 - June 2, 1995

COMMUNITY NEWS



Richard Edward

"Chris" Osborne
Oct. 13, 1945 - May 3, 1995
On May 3 Chris left his many friends and family to join all of our other friends who have passed before him.
Chris is survived by the Jovine



Chris is survived by his loving father, Edward; mother, Gloria; brother, Kevin; and sister, Barbara. He is also survived by his lover of six years, Kevin, and friends far too numerous

far too numerous to mention.

After a grueling three-year battle with cancer, Chris left us all with the gifts of hope, strength and love beyond measure. I wanted to include notes from his closest and dearest friends, but that would make this far too lengthy. So, instead, I'll just say, 'Here' s to Preaking glass and I'll be right back, you beautiful, blond-haired, blue-eyed man with wild ideas.' You will be sorely missed.

Chris was special to everyone who knew him and for individual reasons, and for the same reasons, we were special to Chris.

Pass on, my love. You are forever im my thoughts, and you will forever remain my guardian angel. I love you. – Kev

Jack Eugene Moore May 4, 1955 - June 5, 1995



who held him as he took his last breath. Jack grew up in Bedford, lowa, and Phoenix, Ariz, then moved to San Francisco in 1977. He was last employed at Bank of America, resigning in 1990.
Jack loved sketching in 1990.
Jack loved sketching and watching classic films. He will certainly be remembered for his diverse taste in music, often to the chagrin of his friends, and his real talent in photography. His photographs of flowers, which he made into cards, will be treasured by all. His most significant interest, however, was his health.
With daily help from his spouse, his doctor and many known and experimental drugs, Jack lived a record four years with CMV. We all feel lucky to have had him so healthy so long.
Jack is survived by five siblings, many close friends and his loving spouse, Bill.

Donations can be made in Jack's name to Project Open Hand. ▼

Sandra Suzanne Thompson June 2, 1995

June 2, 1995

Sandra Suzanne Thompson, 46, died June 2 in Santa Clara, Calif. A native of San Jose, Calif., she was the loving significant other of Elaine Y. Aguiar, dearest daughter of Darien and June Bennett; devoted mother of Robert Thompson of Sunnyvale, Calif.; Kenneth Thompson of Sunta Cruz, Calif.; and Karen Smith of Pelham, Ala.; dear grandmother of Adam Smith; loved sister of Larry Bennett of Scottsdale, Ariz.; Victor Bennett of Atlanta, Ga.; John Bennett of Morgan Hill, Calif.; June Alice Miller of Santa Clara, Calif.; Victoria Inghram of Woodbridge, Va.; and many nieces and nephews.

Wooddridge, var, and men, nephews.

A vigil service was held Tuesday, June 6, at the Oak Hill Funeral Home's Chapel of Roses in San Jose, and a funeral service followed on June 7 at the chapel. Interment was at the Oak Hill Memorial Park.

Stephen Anderson

July 15, 1954 - May 15, 1995

July 15, 1954 - May 15, 1995
Stephen Anderson died at home in
San Rafael on Monday, May 15. He was
born in Albany,
N.Y., and lived in
California for the
past 13 years. He
graduated cum
laude from the
University at
Albany in 1976.
He attended
Georgetown University and San
Diego College,
where he majored
in television pro-

Stephen was active in the theatre in New York City. He founded his own production company and produced television commercials. He is remembered by his friends as an avid gardener and for his creativity, spontaneity and fabuleus wit.

for his creativity, spontaneity and fabu-lous wit.

Survivors include many loving friends; Stephen's father, Harold Anderson; his mother, Charlotte Pringle Anderson; and his sister, Elizabeth Anderson.

Anderson.

A memorial service will be held at
A memorial service will be held at
Arbin Hot Springs on Saturday, June
24, at 5 p.m. in the garden. Contact
Katrine at (707) 987-2900 for more
information. ▼

R. Bruce Hutchison

K. Bruce Hutchison
June 11, 1945 - May 17, 1995
On May 17 Bruce Hutchison died at
his home in San Francisco after a yearlong battle with cancer. He was born in
Hollywood, California, and completed
his B.A. in art (textiles) at SF State in
1973. He then worked with Anna and
Ralph Bennett to establish a textile conservation facility at the M.H. de Young
Museum.
In 1975 Bruce servet.

servation facility at the M.H. de Toung Museum.

In 1975 Bruce spent a year studying textile conservation in Europe, returning to San Francisco to become textile conservator for the Fine Arts Museums from 1976 to 1978. From 1982 to 1992. Bruce was textile conservator for the Textile Conservation Laboratory of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. In 1992 he came home to the City to establish a free-lance conservation practice.

City to establish a free-lance conservation practice.

Bruce leaves many friends who loved him and will miss him terribly. A memorial will be held on Sunday, June 25, at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 455 Fair Toaks St., San Francisco. Contributions may be made In Honor of R. Bruce Hutchison to the Foundation for the American Institute of Conservation, Professional Education Fund, 1717 K St. NW, Ste. 301, Washington, D.C. 20006. ▼

Donald Parker

Nov. 7, 1959 - June 6, 1995

Nov. 7, 1959 - June 6, 1995

Don died peacefully June 6 at his home in Lemon Grove, Calif. His father, Richard Parker Sr., also of Lemon Grove, was by his side. Don, your untimely loss has created a big woid in the lives of those who had the pleasure of knowing you. The lesson you were here to teach is one we should all take to heart and put into action.

Don was an active spectator of the Gay Softball League. He formed a cheerleading squad called "The Tantrums." They performed loud, obnoxious, upbeat cheers to the delight of those assembled. His spirit and radiant personality will be greatly missed. We love you, Don!

Don is survived by two sisters, Daisy Planchy of West Plains, Mo., and Sara Parker of El Cajon Calif; two brothers, Richard A. Parker Jr. and Edward E. Parker of Baton Rouge, La; and 12 nephews and nieces. No funeral services will be held, but a celebration of life in Don's honor is pending. Donations in his memory can be made to Project Open Hand in San Francisco or Mama's Kitchen in San Diego. For more details call Michael at (415) 656-1012 or Richard Parker Sr. at (619) 464-4249. ▼

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grammar and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap.

Deadline for all obituaries is

Monday at 5 p.m.





In the hearts of your family and family of

I could sail the waters of all the world Bitter and wild and blue. And never I'd find a friend to love Like the friend I've found in you. I could walk down all the roads of the world And knock on the doors forever And never I'd find a friend like you never -- never -- never

IN MEMORY OF DAN RIFFIN

Lovingly missed by Mom, Pops, Alan, Jo and Art



Mar. 9, 1958 - Feb. 14, 1995

Dan devoted his life to AIDS

many AIDS patients the courage to acquire IV and Gancyclovir implants and take part in home care procedures.

Dan was active in the Marin AIDS Project, Speakers Bureau and Marin AIDS Interfaith Network. He worked with Rev. Janie Spahr at MCC, then became active in the United Methodist Church of Reconcilia-tion in San Bafael tion in San Rafael.

Dan worked hard to advance AIDS therapy through his doc-tor's presentations, encouraging people to seek out every possibili-ty. Friends and family began to

distribute the presentations on IL-2, 3T-C, wasting therapy and recaps of the International AIDS Conferences.

In honor of my son, I encourage everyone to be aggressive in the care of AIDS, in the care of each other and the search for knowledge.

Dr. David Senechek, Dan's doctor, has given presentations to the community. Copies are yours for the asking - Knowledge Is Free and Powerful.

Dr. Senechek (415) 788-4535 Dan's Mom (415) 574-3768

Dick W. Mostert June 3, 1948 - May 23, 1995

On May 23 of this year, my dear friend, Dick Mostert of Amsterdam, passed away very suddenly after a short illness. His untimely death has



untimely death has had a great effect on his family and

on his family and many friends. Dick was a very caring, loving man, who enjoyed life (and his motorcycle, too). He was loved by many friends, who were family to

He was at home, surrounded by his friends, at the time of his death and did

not suffer.

Dick is survived by his family in Rotterdam and friends, especially Jaap Van Der Wal of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

A private Buddhist memorial, in the tradition of Nichiren Shoshu, will be held in the near future for Dick. Sleep in peace, my Dutch angel. − Marc ▼

Gary L. Kirkman Sept. 28, 1944 - June 5, 1995

Gary quietly passed away June 5. He and his partner, Jack Edwards, who died last year, lived in Benicia.



Gary grew up in West Palm Beach, Fla. He served in the Navy for nine years and then moved to the Bay Area in 1971, where he worked as a communication technician for

Pacific Bell for 23 years.

Gary is survived by four brothers and sisters, Beverly of Tequesta, Fla.; Joann of West Palm Beach, Fla.; Ron of Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.; and Steve of Waukee, Iowa. In addition, he is survived by nine nieces and nephews and Sheba, the wonder dog.

Gary loved hiking, motorcycles and Yosemite. We will miss him very much. The family has requested that in lieu of. flowers donations be made to the Napa Valley AIDS Project at (707) 258-2437 or the AIDS organization of your choice.

Alice Sande Dec. 6, 1942 - May 29, 1995

Dec. 6, 1942 – May 29, 1995
Alice Sande, 52, passed away from cancer on May 29 at the Lompoe Community Hospital.
Ms. Sande was born in New York City. She came from Los Angeles to San Francisco in 1976 and lived here for 14 years be fore moving to Lompoe, Calif. in 1990. She sold incense and novelty and collectible trinkets at Bay Area and Northern California (Pamarkets and then at California Central Coast flea markets.)

markets.

Mas. Sande is survived by her son, P.B., "Bill" Sande of Los Angeles; her daughter, Gabriella Sande; her sister-in-law, Janice Buff of Lompoc; and many, many loving friends. There will be a wake to celebrate her life and the wonderful person she was at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St., SF, CA, on Thursday, June 22, at 7 p.m. ▼

A la mémoire de

Jack Vanek

1937-1985

Bel ami, ainsi est de nous, Ni vous sans moi. ni moi sans vous

Jayson Wortham Hudgins March 15, 1953 - April 29, 1995



Jayson Wortham Hudgins
March 15, 1953 – April 29, 1995
My bright and shining star, my
sweet, beautiful, loving man left me
early in the morning. He fought
ing. He fought
i

William C. Bowen Feb. 21, 1946 - May 27, 1995



Feb. 21, 1946 – May 27, 1995

Bill Bowen peacefully passed away on Saturday, May 27, at Coming Home Hospice. His friends Irving, Jaake and Scott supported him in his final struggle with AIDS. Bill joins his soulmate, Peter Certeza, who died in 1988.

Bill was born in Gillette, Wyoming. After he received his MBA from North we stern North we stern lower work. City, where he became an executive for AT&T. Bill eventually fell in love with San Francisco, and it was here he chose to leave the high pressure life of corporate America and take control of his sobriety in 1982. He found a new life of peace and happiness with Peter Certeza, who he met during his recovery.

Bill leaves behind many loving

Peter Certeza, who he met during his recovery.

Bill leaves behind many loving friends and relatives; his father, Chet; his brothers; Bob and Mark; their families; the Certeza family; and his close friends, Irving, Jaake, Sout and Dan.

A celebration of Bill's life is being planned for a future date. Please contact Jaack Jacobson at (510) 527-6727 for information. Bill was very appreciative of his care at Coming Home; please make any donations to: Coming Home Hospice, 115 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94114. ▼

Peter Harding Oct. 6, 1955 - May 11, 1995



Oct. 6, 1955 - May 11, 1995

Peter was "our tree...deep-rooted, both strong and fragile." The tall, blue-ged New Yorker shielded others from storms, cooled overheated psyches, and uplifted the weak even when he himself was "bored to tears" in recent years by his own AIDS drama.

Peter was the founder of F.A.N., Feed America opublicizing the plight of the nation's homeless and hungry. The former chef took his mission on the road in August 1988, walking 3900 miles from New York to Los Angeles. During this sixmonth walk, he begged for food and lodging from strangers to dramatize the realities of being homeless. He would speak in the communities he passed through in an attempt to motivate action.

In the Bay Area, Peter gave talks to

action.

In the Bay Area, Peter gave talks to kids in schools about "living with AIDS." He believed that he had to live life, even if he was dying. When he was in extreme pain, he would pray and ask what he was supposed to be learning

From it.

Peter died of AIDS in his Santa
Rosa home, but he left an inspirational
gift to everyone in his powerful example and his indomitable spirit.

Jeffrey Burt Johnson March 16, 1945 - June 9, 1995



several years in the U.S. Air Force, including 13 months in Vietnam

or including 13 months in Vietnam as a meteorologist.

San Francisco in 1978, where he lived until October 1994. He worked for the SF Municipal Transportation Department and was one of the most popular bus drivers in the city. He volunteered for several years at the San Francisco Zoo, building close relationships with great apes and little kids. He also volunteered for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Shanti Project.

Jeffrey died of AIDS at home under the close and loving care of his family and friends. He leaves behind his brother and sister-in-law, Barry and Anne Marie Johnson; sister, Cynthia Carlo; nephew, Dale Shadbegjan; half-brother, George Hammond; Heather and Heidi Johnson and several other nicces and nephews; Annette Austen-Meck; Patrick Yen; all the members of the Windy Hill community; and many friends in the San Francisco, Western Massachusetts and Worcester areas. A memorial service is pending. ▼

Float

Stanley Lane Jasper May 26, 1995

May 26, 1995

Stanley passed away May 26. He is survived by his parents, Chet and Velda Jasper of Florida, his brothers, Jim and Ken; sisters-in-law. Mary and Chris; aunt, Lacey; and his life partner of four years, Grege D. Wion of Guerneville. He also leaves behind numerous nieces and nephews, and his dogs Junior and Lakota.

Lakota.

Stanley was a graduate of the University of Illinois. He enjoyed home restoration. He had worked for Glidden Paints for six years and 19 years for the Upjohn Corporation. He enjoyed raising dogs, and after retiring to Kansas City, Mo., he dabbled in real estate. He moved to the Russian River area in 1989.

Donations may be made to Food for Thought or Face to Face in his memory. Arrangements were under the direction of Pleasant Hill-Guerneville Chapel. ▼

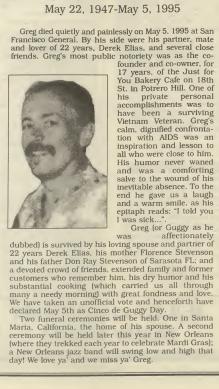
Doug Luiz



Dec. 17, 1959 - June 10, 1995



Gregory L. Stevenson May 22, 1947-May 5, 1995





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BAY AREA REPORTER-June 15, 1995-PAGE 25

Parade

Continued from page 1

Musicians for "Queer Lapalooza!" include the Veronica Lapaloozal" include the Veronica Klaus Heart & Soul Revue, Flower SF, the White Trash Debutantes, Stone Fox, Patsy Cline and the Memphis G Spots, Spanking Violets, and many more, with hosts David Hawkins, Miss X, Sabrina Matthews, and MimisFreed

A, Saorina matthews, and Minni=Freed.

This year's grand marshals include Candace Gingrich, lesbian half-sister of U. S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich; Pratibha Parmar of London, writer and independent

dent filmmaker; Jose Sarria, San dent Himmaker; Jose Sarria, San Francisco's own "Widow Norton;" and Dragonsani (Drago) Renteria, director of the San Francisco Deaf Gay and Lesbian

Float march check-in opens at 9 a.m. Check-in is located in front of the Main Library (the old one), located at the corner of Larkin and McAllister.

McAllister.

Parade organizers said volunteers are needed to assist with assembly and line up of the parade. Volunteers should report to the check-in tables at 8 a.m. ▼

For more information call (415) 864-FREE.

DA issues warning to all violence-prone punks

San Francisco District Attorney Arlo Smith, who has ridden in the Pride Parade since 1979 and will do so again this weekend, has issued a stern warning to so again this weekend, has issued a stern warning to anyone considering causing a disruption at the celebration. He told the *B.A.R.* that if "punks" come to town Sunday to cause trouble, his office "will vigorously prosecute anyone who engages in vandalism, violence, or hate crimes."

Increased media attention devoted to the pride celebration of the pride celebration

ebration, particularly by the historically homophobic radio station KSFO, has led Smith to foresee a possible rise in vandalism and hate crimes by those who come into the city to harass pride marchers.

"Public coverage of these events tends to bring out the punks from all over the state," the district attorney

Smith decried irresponsible talk show hosts and radio stations that permit hate rhetoric, and said that free speech is both "a right and a responsibility." Radio stations and individuals who display "a grossly insulting" lack of responsibility should be condemned, he said.

- Kent Brandley

Current Active Studies



Mepron vs. Aerosol Pentamidine
For individuals who are allergic to sulfa drugs and who need prophylaxis against *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, a comparison of
low-dose Mepron vs. high-dose Mepron vs. Aerosol Pentamidine.
18 month study sponsored by Burroughs Wellcome.

LGD1069 for Kaposi's Sarcoma

A new retinoid gel for topical application to KS lesions. Provides a non-cytotoxic option for people with skin KS. 8 week study with option to continue if the gel is safe and effective. Sponsored by Ligand Pharmaceuticals.

Delavirdine (U-90, BHAP)
Two studies available: first, for people with 200-500 CD4 and less than 6 months of AZT, a double-blind comparison of AZT plus DLV vs. AZT plus placebo; second, for people with fewer than 300 CD4 and less than 4 months of ddl, a double-blind comparison of ddl plus DLV vs. ddl plus placebo. Upjohn.

Nevirapine
Two groups of volunteers with 200-500 CD4: those who have taken
AZT for 4-24 months, who receive either AZT plus NVP or AZT plus
placebo, and those who have not taken antivirals, who receive NVP
or placebo. The study offers cross-over to active drug for all participants. Boehringer Ingelheim.

DaunoXome
This is a phase III study using DaunoXome for people with Kaposi's
Sarcoma with pulmonary involvement. Other forms of treatment for
KS must be discontinued at least two weeks prior to treatment. This
study is sponsored by Vestar, Inc.

This is a compassionate use protocol for people who have advanced KS. Patients receive infusions twice a month and may continue indefinitely. This study is sponsored by Vestar, Inc.

For further information, please call the Client Care Coordinator at (415) 353-6215. HIVCare is a program of the Clinical Research Department at Saint Francis Memorial Hospital, 900 Hyde St., SF 94109.

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195927 STATEMENT FILE NO. 195927
The following person(s) are doing business as COBALT BLUE, 2256 Market Street #C, San Francisco, CA 94114: EVAN RUSSEL DEERFIELD, 2256 Market Street #C, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed EVAN DEERFIELD. This statement was filled with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 25, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196156 STATEMENT FILE NO. 199156
The following person(s) are doing business as D & D PARTNERS, 1320
Lakeview Drive, Hillsborough, CA 94010:
DENNIS W. JERMANINE, 1320 Lakeview
Drive, Hillsborough, CA 94010: Registrant(s)
CAFO, 1549 Kings Wood Drive,
Hillsborough, CA 94010. Registrant(s)
commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of January 1, 1989. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed DENNIS with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 05, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195910

STATEMENT FILE NO. 195910
The following person(s) are doing business as BLACK BEARD, 319 10th Street,
San Francisco, CA 94103. VINCENT
BLACK, 824 A Valencia, San Francisco,
CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced
business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 25, 1995.
This business is conducted by an individual. Signed VINCENT E. J. BLACK. This
statement was filed with the County Clerk
of the City and County of San Francisco,
CA on May 25, 1995.

June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1995.

June 8, 1s, 22, 29, 1999.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195967

The following person(s) are doing business as GAYLORD COMMUNICATIONS, 1700 Bay Street #103, San Francisco, CA 94123. PETER GAYLORD, 1700 Bay Street #103, San Francisco, CA 94123. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 30, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed PETER GAYLORD. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 30, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196066

STATEMENT FILE NO. 198066
The following person(s) are doing business as ATLANTIC ENTERPRISE, 633
Post Street #606, San Francisco, CA
94109: SERGEY I. ROMANCHENKO,
724 Bounty Drive #2409, Foster City, CA
94404. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictilious business are not the date of June 01, 1995. This
business is conducted by an individual.
Signed SERGEY. IROMANCHENKO.
Clerk of the City and County of San
Francisco, CA on June 01, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196042

STATEMENT FILE NO. 196042
The following person(s) are doing busness as COLEMAN COMMUNICATION, 1330 10th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122: BEVERIY WRIGHT COLEMAN, 1330 10th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced busness under the above fictitious business name on the date of May 01, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 31, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196035

STATEMENT FILE NO. 196035
The following person(s) are doing business as GENEALOGY SF. 109 Stratford Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132: BRILAN MAVROGEORGE, 109 Stratford Drive, San Francisco, CA 94132: Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of NA. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed BRIAN MAVROGEORGE. This statement was filed with the County Clark of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 31, 1995.

June 8, 15, 22, 29, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196287

STATEMENT FILE NO. 195287
The following person(s) are doing business as THE PET GROCMING HEADQUARTERS, 1540 A Union Street, San Francisco, CA 94123: HON KEUNG
KENNY TANG, 46 Mounthive Court, San Francisco, CA 94131. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of June
8, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed HON KEUNG
KENNY TANG. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 08, 1995.

June 22, 29, 29, 1995, July 8, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196210

STATEMENT FILE NO. 160-316
The following person(s) are doing business as BAY GOURMET, 231 Cherry Street, San Francisco, CA 94131-2764, STEVEN A LOPEZ, 231 Chenery Street, San Francisco, CA 94131-2764; Registrant(s) commenced business under the above lictitious business name on the date of June 15, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed STEVEN A LOPEZ, This statement was filled with the County Cleft of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 06, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196215 STATEMENT FILE NO. 196215
The following person(s) are doing business as YOUR OWN EPIC VIDEO PRODUCTION SERVICES, 1651 Filbert Apt
#/2, San Francisco, CA 94123: DOUGLAS
GALLAHER, 1651 Filbert Apt #/2, San
Francisco, CA 94123: Registrant(s) commenced business under the above ficittious business name on the date of June
7, 1995. This business is conducted by
AHER. This statement was filed with the
County Clark of the City and County of
San Francisco, CA on June 07, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196279 STATEMENT FILE NO. 196279
The following person(s) are doing business as RENT TECH, 349 Upper Terrace,
San Francisco, CA 94117: GREY TODD.
349 Upper Terrace, San Francisco, CA
94117. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business
name on the date of June 6, 1995. This
business is conducted by an individual.
Signed Grey Todd. This statement was
filed with the County Clerk of the City and
County of San Francisco, CA on June 08,
1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196274 STATEMENT FILE NO. 196274
The following person(s) are doing business as MASON SMOKE AND TOBACO
SHOP, 37 Mason Street, San Francisco,
CA 94102: AHMAD A. MUSMAR, 80
Forest Grove 914, Day City, CA 94015
and JAMARI Z. SHAMIEH, 52 Mason
Street, San Francisco, CA 94102:
Registration of the common street of the common street of the common street of June 64, 1985. This business is conducted by co-partners. Signed
AHMAD MUSMAR. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and
County of San Francisco, CA on June 08, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196254

STATEMENT FILE NO. 196254
The following person(s) are doing business as ART ACCESS, 4489 17th Street,
44, San Francisco, CA 94114: DAVID J.C.
NEWHARD, 4489 17th Street, #4, San
Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above licitious business name on the date of N/A.
This business is conducted by an individual. Signed DAVID J.C. NEWHARD. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco,
CA on June 08, 1995.

June 15, 22, 29, 1995, July 06, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196261

STATEMENT FILE NO. 196261
The following person(s) are doing business as HUNAN EXPRESS RESTAU-RANT, 680 Clay Street, San Francisco, CA 94111: LI CHEN, 2087 33rd Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116: Registrant(s) commenced business under the above lictitious business name on the date of May 30, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed LI CHEN. This statement was filled with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 08, 1995.

June 15, 22, 29, 1995, July 06, 1995

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196270 The following percent

THE THE STATEMENT FILE NO. 198270
The following person(s) are doing business as BAFBARTY HILE LOMMUNICA-TIONS, 3910 Sacramento Street, #3, San Francisco, CA 94118: CUFFORD J. HOB-SON JR., 3910 Sacramento Street, #3, San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above lictificus business name on the date of June 05, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed CLIFFORD J. HOB-SON JR. (See 1995). The County Cliff of the Cliff and County of San Francisco, CA on June 08, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 196254

STATEMENT FILE NO. 196254
The following person(s) are doing business as GET FIT, 781 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114: KIRKLAN TABER, 781 Castro Street, San Francisco, CA 94114: Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of June 91, 1995. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed KIRKLAN C. TABER. This statement was filled with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on June 09, 1995.

June 15, 22, 29, 1995, July 06, 1995

B.A.R. classifieds really work!

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195844

STATEMENT FILE NO. 195844
The following person(s) are doing business as B.M.B. CONSTRUCTION CO., 2
Dunsmuir Street, San Francisco, CA
9413: BPYAN MICHAEL BIRMINGHAM,
2 Dunsmuir Street, San Francisco, CA
94134. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictificus business
name on the date of N/A. This business is
name on the date of N/A. This business is
BYYAN M. BIRMINGHAM. This support
was filled with the County Clerk of the City
and County of San Francisco, CA on May
23, 1995.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195764 STATEMENT FILE NO. 195764
The following person(s) are doing business as WARMCOVE COMMUNICATIONS, 1100 Tennessee Street, San Francisco, CA 94107: SHARON COLLIGAN, 830 Treat Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94107: NEIL MARSHALL, 830 Treat, San Francisco, CA 94107: Neightantic commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of 5/14/95. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed SHARON COLLIGAN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 18, 1995.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195857
The following person(s) are doing business as TANTA PRODUCTION, 1637
Sacramento Street, Suite 7, San Francisco, CA 94109: Right-Richard Sacramento #7, San Francisco, CA 94109: Algestrant(s) commenced business under the above fictious business name on the date of May 23, 1995. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed RICHARD BERNIER. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on May 23, 1995.

June 1, 8, 15, 22, 1995.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 195389 STATEMENT FILE NO. 195389
The following person(s) are doing business as INTERIOR EXPRESSIONS, 2775 Market Street, Suite 303, San Francisco, CA 94114: ROGER DEAN BANKS, 2775 Market Street, Suite 303, San Francisco, CA 94114: Registrant(s) commenced business under the above ficilitous business mane on the date of light of the suite of the suit

May 25, 1995, June 1, 8, 15, 1995.

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DAVID JULL-JOHNSON, PHD

415.296.8756



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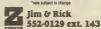
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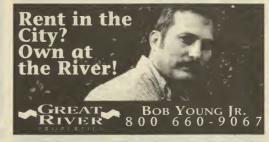
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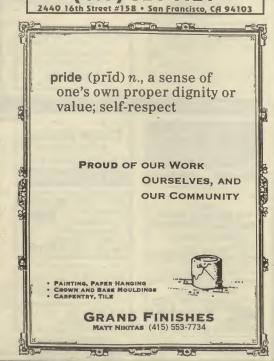
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A group of gays and lesbians from both Cuba and the U.S. (plus a Jamaican and a German), including San Francisco's own Queers for Cuba, carried the Rainbow Flag in

Havana's annual May Day Parade while the red-shirted Giant Chorus of the Cuban Workers Confederation sang in the background. This year marked the first time that a gay civil rights group marched in the parade.

A World Without Borders

A Declaration of Interdependency

by Mike Salinas

Editor, Bay Area Reporter

s the San Francisco gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and g/l/b/t-friendly community makes its way down to the Embarcadero on its Pride Parade this year, it will proudly do so under the banner of A World Without Borders. under the banner of A World Without Borders. It is a glorious – even holy – ideal for so many people to share, especially at a time when every day seems to bring another politician's proposal to subdivide our world.

How ironic (and sad) it is that only five years ago the Berlin Wall was turning into a pile of dust and collectable chunks, and the

citizens of the planet – for the most part – joy-fully envisioned a freer, more unified world for ourselves and future generations. Now, only a half decade later, that dream is in more

or ourseives and future generations. Now, only a half decade later, that dream is in more pieces than the Wall. Old divisions have gotten more fractious and bloody; new divisions have destroyed formerly peaceful neighborhoods, towns, states, and countries; and the mindless prejudice of Dr. Suess's Sneetches story has been played out time and again, but without the humor and the happy ending.

Like every gigantic change, the world will shift away from xenophobia one tiny step at a time. How nice that the first few steps toward that goal may be taken this Sunday, down our own Market Street. And how fitting that the journey to a world without borders should be initially undertaken by a community that does, literally, cut across every artificially-created human-devised border ever invented.

In honor of A World Without Borders, 20 Bay Area Reporter writers have given their impressions of some of the lives led by gay and lesbian people from one end of this earth to the other. Reading through the stories one

can see at once how similar we are for all our can see at once how similar we are for all our differences, and different for all our similarities. (That is the yin and yang that makes humanity so interesting, and which might spell an end to the petty divisions and borders that have no place in the 20th century – much less in the 21st.)

Our community is strong because of its

diversity: its lifeblood is enriched by our dif-

diversity: its lifeblood is enriched by our dif-ferences and individual experiences. Take together, we are a story of all personkind: we are every color, every religion, every political bent, every economic level, and every every-thing else.

We are everywhere. We encircle this globe, and we have every right to demand a world without borders where we can join our hands in friendship. It is especially important since we have so much to teach and learn from our fellow Homosexual Sapiens around the world. The currents that run through our the world. The currents that run through our culture rarely pass unnoticed elsewhere, and as we gain freedom and pride in our own lives, we make it a little easier for other gays and lesbians in other countries to fight for their own. Conversely, when we see the irrefutable connections that exist between a Nigerian drag queen, a Slovenian lesbian, and ourselves, it can give us the strength to continue our battles.

No peace for the bigots

erhaps, as has been suggested a few times

in the past, what the world needs now is a Declaration of Interdependency, a document that will acknowledge once and for all that everything and everyone on the planet is connected. A recognition that, if we are to survive, we can no longer continue to magnify each other's differences and narrow each other's possibilities.

There are, unfortunately, many people who will fight against that ideal, people whose power rests with their ability to section and pigeonhole humanity, and to set the sepaand pigeonhole humanity, and to set the sepa-rate spilinter groups at odds. We gay people, along with immigrants and welfare recipients, are the favorite targets of those people right now; tomorrow, like yesterday, the lines of division may be drawn around Japanese-Americans or Jews. Whoever is being attacked, we obviously know too much now to only fight for our own right to be left alone and to live with dignity: for whelfere freedom and to live with dignity; if we believe freedom is a right, we cannot divorce ourselves from the plight of other victims of intolerance. Nor

the plight of other victims of intolerance. Nor can we allow the bigots to have a moment's peace, during which they might think their subdivisions are working.

So our huge and beautifully multicolored community will march this Sunday in joyous support of freedom, justice, liberty, and personal pride. And as we carry, along with our banners and balloons and flags, the knowledge that our actions will comfort lesbians and gays in other countries, it will make us stronger. There has never been a more important time to pour out of the closets and into the tant time to pour out of the closets and into the

...As the Beatles sang, "All together now..." ▼

Country to Country: Laws At A Glance, pages 35-57

Map of San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration Parade and Festival, page 48



Activist/writer Tommi Avicolli Mecca, one of the principals behind World Without Borders

Tommi Avicolli Mecca and A World Without Borders

A Vision of a World Without Borders

he theme of this year's Pride Parade, "A World Without Borders," was conceived in part by local activist, novelist, performer Tommi Avicolli Mecca. The Bay Area Reporter recently spoke with Tommi about how "A World Without Borders" was selected, and why it is so important

LA: Where did the idea come from and how did it get put into action?

TAM: It all started last December when I and a woman named Eloise Magenheim – who's involved with the gay synagogue – were in a march against [the proposed anti-illegal immigrant] Prop. 187 on Mission Street.

Someone who had been

involved with the [SF Pride] parade came up to us and said "Why don't you get involved with the parade?" At first we didn't take it seriously because it initially seemed too difficult a task, then we started thinking how great it would be if we got the parade here, which is the largest queer parade in the whole world, to take on the issue of Prop. 187.

So we started fantasizing, and the next thing I know we were at the

the next thing I know we were at the

general meeting for the parade proposing "A World Without Borders" as the theme, never expecting that it would really get through. But we fought like crazy, gave our little speeches, and kept pushing. It was clear that a lot of people in the room didn't want that theme, but we pushed and won by one vote.

One vote? So where did you go from there?

They encouraged us to stick around to follow through. How could we carry out the theme of this parade? At first I thought to put a parade? At first I thought to put a call out for all the parade contin-gents to do something around the theme, but that was naive. There was no way to get 200-300 groups marching in this parade to do some-thing around a theme like that, not practical. So we came up with the idea of the front of the march to have a benefic earlinger being have a banner contingent being reflective of the theme because that's what people see first - it would be Dykes on Bikes and then us. We'll be the first thing they see

and absorb.

After a while people stop absorbing, I mean, the parade has so much imagery. It would be nice that the first thing they see is our diversity. It's not going to be PC, it's not going to be trivialized, each person is there getting to choose how they want to project their ethnic diversity. I think that is what's going to make it yery nowerful.

ty. I think that is what's going to make it very powerful. ...

It holds the idea of the contingent reflecting the make up of the world, because we are talking about The World. It's one of my pet peeves that people shouldn't be broken down by race, because that's so arbitrary. Everything is an artificial construct, but race is an obvious one in that it's determined by racism within this culture and it seems to me that we shouldn't seems to me that we shouldn't acknowledge racists and their con-cept of how humanity should be divided. So I always like to look at people from an ethnic or cultural point of view because that's how people really identify – we identify by language, customs, geographic

by language, customs, geographic region.

So I thought it should be composed of as many ethnic groups from within our community that we can find. And where else but in San Francisco can you get a hundred ethnic groups represented in a contingent? So that became my goal and I had to convince the parade committee of that.

I can imagine how people were probably feeling a need to keep the parade sort of the same as it's always been. The theme of this parade, which bridges not only sexual identities but cultural identities, might seem too radical to some.

I think a lot of people in our community, especially white folks, are afraid of diversity because what it means is that they are no longer the majority, no longer the cones in control. Some people don't want to give up that power, privilege and status. And I think people don't even realize that they're doing that. They give lip service to the idea of diversity, but when you start talking about diversity it means that people of European descent are going to be in the minority because worldwide they are.

they are.

That's frightening to a lot of people on a level that's pretty much unconscious. And some people have political problems with the idea of diversity because they're not used to dealing with it.

What stage are you at now with the contingent?

Right now we're creating a human quilt, putting together all the panels represented by ethnic groups. And it's not by country, but within countries. I'm aiming for a hundred. I may not reach that, but it would really be nice.

Also, I don't want to get into talling reports to were about the second of the seco

Also, I don't want to get into telling people to wear ethnic garb because, for some, that's problematic, especially women. In a lot of traditions that becomes something sexist and oppressive. Whereas language can be not as problematic, so I am encouraging people to carry placards reading "World Without Borders" in whatever language or languages reflect their heritage. Language is such a personal thing to all of us. People don't speak Chinese, it's Cantonese or Mandarin. And it's not just Italian, it's country or city dialects. I think it it's country or city dialects. I think it would be very telling to have a hun-dred signs with different dialects on them reflecting the total diversity of

this planet.
Working on this brings home
the ridiculousness of the idea that
America's a melting pot. What
does that mean? You have all
these wonderful cultures coming
together, you throw them into a
pot and melt them down to some-

Continued on page 62



upervisor Carole Migden, Supervisor Susan Leal and Community College Board Member Leslie Katz -Wishing everyone a fabulous and safe time during the parade festivities!

A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS



Life is a cabaret, old chum: Two German gays dress up one of East Berlin's public monuments on Christopher Street Day.

Finding the Queer **Family in Bavaria**

by Claudia Steinberg

I moved from New York to Munich in 1994, my best friend at the time was a 25-year-old man named Eiko who had many odd jobs and a wide range of contact.
Walking with Eiko one summer evening down a Munich street, I had the strangest feeling that I had just arrived in a true gay Mecca, as he recognized and greeted near-ly half the men we passed on the streets. Doubtless, most were frequent visitors to the porn theater where Eiko worked nights every week.

worked nights every week.

Eiko did get around. He pointed out various businessmen and boys alike as regular clients. It made me realize that this Bavarian capital is indeed home to some 110,000 homosexuals. However, though there are reportedly some 40,000 lesbians in this Capital, I became acquainted with only one. My numerous new gay male friends hardly knew any either, and in my favorite gay bar and restaurant, the Cafe Morizz, few women sit on the red leather chairs and make contacts with attractive babituse over the microard walls like the with attractive habitués over the mirrored walls like the

guys do.

Eiko has recently moved to Hamburg. Over the phone he complains about the rough hustler scene there and the aloof northern bourgeoisie. "It's so much friendlier in the south," he says, reminiscing about typical Munich evenings, which would almost certainly begin at the elegant Haus der Kunst and end at the Ochsengarten of Loguemonths, places when the proof in a designation. or Loewengrube, places where men meet in almost total

darkness.

Last November, he was able to motivate all the major cultural institutions to participate in the annual week-long Day Without Art. This isn't too surprising since there are quite a few prominent homosexuals in Munich who appear casual but not really political about their status, whether they work for Sotheby's or the Staatskanzlei. Last year, the "Pink List" narrowly missed the five percent of the vote necessary to make it into the city parliament.

ment.
"Munich has a certain tradition of tolerance," my friend Matei, a doctor who works with PWAs, recently told me. In large part, this tradition can be traced back to Bavarian rule under the relatively liberal Code Napoleon, which was the law of the land until 1871, when the German Reich was founded under stricter Prussian jurisdiction. Fairy King Ludwig II, apparently,

was one of the more famous victims of earlier homophobic politics.

Tattoos, again

Recommendations by right wing politicians to tattoo people who are living with AIDS at the beginning of the epidemic in the early '80s constitutes a more recent example of hostility for homosexuals in Germany. The so-called paragraph 175, originally introduced long ago by Bismarck to define homosexual behavior as a criminal offense, was softened in the '60s, but only abolished two years ago.

I work as editor at a large fashion magazine, and in this world, of course, homosexuality doesn't carry an ounce of scandal. Queers are not even considered exot-ic, which is something of a relief. Matei tells me that disic, which is something of a relief. Mater tells me that dis-crimination against gays in the workplace is rare. Still, there are difficulties. I share my office with an artistic gay man who has rare and special knowledge of world culture. The expertise he brings to his work is highly appreciated, yet the in-house lawyers scrutinize extra carefully every article he writes for fear that he is intro-ducing dangerous statements about his sexuality into the articles.

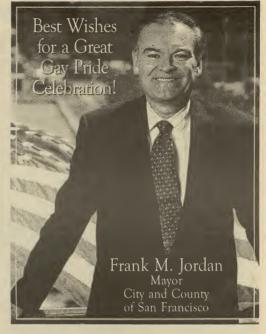
articles.

I have another friend, Claudia, a 43-year-old financial advisor to the rich and powerful. In the prestigious company she works for she is tentatively out. But when she meets her clients she doesn't wear the necklace with ring and two crosses. Being gay is a new thing for her since she only left her husband a few years ago and now lives with her two daughters. Claudia would have made the switch much earlier had she known where to find like-minded women. like-minded women.

like-minded women.

Her first attempt to deal with her sexuality started with a phone book and ended with a fast beer in the company of some sad ladies. Lesbian chic hadn't arrived in this otherwise very style-conscious town, and still is scarce. Later, Claudia discovered the "scene" and compensated fiercely for lost time at the Soul, a dance club where she now spends most of her weekends. "At my age I couldn't do that in any straight context," she says.

In her spare time she is now the president of a group of entrepreneurs. But she likes the fact that now she has friends who are florists and hairdressers (good ones only, of course) and not just biophysicists and lawyers. She thinks of them as family.





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- Testified before state legislature in favor of needle exchange and compassionate medical use of marijuana.
- First DA in USA to recruit openly gay and lesbian attorneys and investigators.
- Provides annual funding for Community United Against Violence (CUAV).

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Country to Country:

Laws At A Glance

Compiled by John Antalek

ALBANIA Illegal: Article 137 of the penal code states that homosexuality is illegal and punishable by up to 10 years in prison, but prosecutions stopped after 1990. New legislation is in the works for more tolerable laws. Still no gay "scene."

ALGERIA Illegal: Article 388 of penal code states that sexual acts between men can be punishable by up to 2 years in prison and 2000 Algerian dinars. Fines are considerably higher if one of the men involved is under 18. Gays are closeted and very discreet. There are no laws regulating persons with HIV to enter the country.

ARGENTINA Legality is questionable: At present, the situation is improving for gays in Argentina. In previous years, the police have oppressed homosexuals. Recent democratization and public discus sion about homosexuality has improved the atmosphere considerably. There are no restrictions for anyone with HIV.

ARMENIA Illegal: Anal intercourse between men is illegal and punishable by up to seven years in prison. Homosexuals have to keep their sexual ty hidden but there are cruising areas that have become discreet meeting



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Don't miss the biggest Asian queer event among the Pride festivities of 1995. BAY AREA REPORTER-June 15, 1995-PAGE 35

Denmark: Speak to the Left, Stand on the Right

by Inge Lisa Vesterbaek

n the small Scandinavian country of Denmark, gay and lesbian issues are caught between two of Denmark's key cultural features – progressive politics and old-world social values.

Denmark's internationally renowned "human rights-oriented" politics, which have evolved since WWII, are characterized by legislated rights and benefits like free education at all levels of society, 100 percent socialized healthcare, unemployment benefits up to 90 percent of former salary, and guar-

anteed five weeks paid vacation per year for every Danish citizen. On the other hand, there are Denmark's old-world social values.

On the other hand, there are Denmark's old-world social values. The result of centuries of strict Protestantism, national traditions, and small town provincial life, Danish social values emphasize homogeneity and conformity. While these features of Danish life are not easily discernible to the casual tourist in Denmark, they are nevertheless there, just below the surface of everyday life – the Somalian refugee boy who is not invited to a classmate's party, the Jehovah's



Great Dane: Benno Jensen of the Denmark volleyball team shows his patriotism at the opening of Gay Games IV

witness who does not receive an expected promotion at work, or the gay teacher who is fired after a dis-

agreement with the administration.

Caught squarely in the middle of Danish progressive politics and

old-world social values are Danish gays and lesbians. Although they do enjoy significant political rights, they otherwise remain closeted and invisible in Danish society. This situation is an interesting contrast to the status of lesbians and gays in the U.S., where legal rights are few but where the gay and lesbian movement is visible and vocal.

WILLIE BROWN'S RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF



- ▼ Wrote the CONSENTING ADULTS ACT and led the successful 6-year fight that in 1975 ELIMINATED CRIMINAL PENALTIES for private sex acts between consenting adults.
- ▼ Fought for and won the nation's FIRST STATE FUNDING for AIDS intervention/prevention/education in 1983.
- ▼ Secured passage three times of legislation to BAN DISCRIMINATION against lesbians/gay men in employment and housing. (All three bills vetoed by Governors Deukmejian & Wilson).
- ▼ Authored state legislation to establish Clean NEEDLE EXCHANGE Pilot Program to reduce HIV transmission among IV drug users.
- ▼ Secured \$13 million in state funding for California's *only* AIDS RESEARCH CENTER, at San Francisco General Hospital.
- ▼ Obtained hundreds of millions of dollars in special funding for INDIGENT MEDICAL CARE, MENTAL HEALTH and SUBSTANCE ABUSE programs for San Francisco.
- ▼ Secured passage of legislation PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION in HEALTH INSURANCE for people with AIDS.
- ▼ Flew at his own expense to Florida in 1977 to FIGHT AGAINST ANITA BRYANT and her anti-gay "Save the Children" initiative.

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Legal gay marriage for decades

With respect to legal rights, gay and lesbian marriage has been legal in Denmark for about half a decade. These marriages are announced in the local papers together with heterosexual weddings and are performed by the Justice of the Peace. The next step, the right to a church wedding, is now being fervently discussed within the Danish State Church. Denmark's renowned acceptance – at least on paper – of all things, including non-traditional lifestyles, will dictate in the near future the acceptance of church weddings for gays and lesbians in Denmark.

Also in contrast to the U.S., the

Also in contrast to the U.S., the issue of gays in the military is virtually a non-issue in Denmark. As part of the NATO Alliance, all men in Denmark are drafted and required to serve a tour of duty. However, Denmark's progressive political stance on this issue allows for the choice of either military or civil service tours of duty. Consistent with progressive politics, draftees are not asked about their sexual preference, nor are they released from their tour of duty for being homosexual.

Even with the power of signifi-

Even with the power of significant political rights in hand, Danish gays and lesbians remain largely separate from the larger population. This is not to say that gay and lesbian organizations, clubs, cafes, and other social outlets do not exist in Denmark. To the contrary, the Danish National Organization for Gays and Lesbians has been in existence since 1948, and there are small chapters in most major cities. Moreover, there are two Danish gay and lesbian publications plus various clubs and cafes, mostly concentrated in the major cities of Copenhagen and Aarhus. However, it is important to note

However, it is important to note that these organizations, publications, clubs, and cafes operate in a small subculture within the larger context of Danish society. It seems clear that this isolation is not by choice, but by means of the social pressure imposed by this country's obsession with tradition.

In spite of the characteristically Scandinavian dilemma of "speak to the left, stand to the right," Danish gays and lesbians have accomplished a lot and are proud of the political rights they enjoy.

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Amsterdam's Homomonument commemorates all those persecuted because of their homosexuality.

Holland: The Dutch Treat—or Mindfuck?

by Terry Baum

Amsterdam! You visith, Amsterdam! You visited for two days or two weeks, right? You around that 18th century fairyland, and fell in love – with the city, if nothing else was available. You were enchanted by Dutch gays and lesbians who could speak English better than you, had read more books in English than you, and were witty and gorgeous to boot.

Yes, Holland seems like a par-Yes, Holland seems like a paradise for gay people, with its openness and tolerance, its cafes and discos, its government-funded gay centers in every town. When you visit Amsterdam, the people will charm you, the city itself will put on its loveliest gown. For me, Amsterdam will always be a beautiful, seductive woman. Playful, highly educated, sensual, brilliant – she stole my heart the first time I met her. met her.

I lived there off and on for nine years in a passionate, tormented love affair with the city, and – need I say it? – this spellbinding lady is totally screwed up. I saw how the warm embrace is often the prelude to a stab in the back low the Dutch to a stab in the back, how the Dutch give with one hand and take away with the other, how everything is the opposite of what it appears to be. I call it the Dutch Mindfuck.

Ostracism for reward

Take, for example, the only public monument in the world to homosexual victims of oppression: the Homomonument. You can sit on the pink marble triangle jutting out into the canal, surrounded by bouquets of flowers left by anonymous nouncers and gaze across the water at the house where Anne Frank and her family were hidden by courageous Dutch people. It is a deeply moving experience, given to all of us by the gay community of Holland.

I interviewed Karin Dean, the lesbian architect who won the competition to design the Homomonument. She told me the Homomonument. She told me the dyke community rewarded her accomplishment by ostracizing her. People simply stopped speaking to her. You see, one is severely punished for being too outstanding in Dutch society. Dutch children are constantly told while they're growing up, "Be normal; that's mad enough." If it doesn't start the wheels inside your head racing like hamster on speed, you're a stouter hamster on speed, you're a stouter man than me

In other words, the gay community in Holland is so accepted, so well-organized, and so visionary that they can erect a major public monument with minimal controversy. But it's a community so filled with self-loathing that they cannot honor the creator of the monument.

And take a second example, the opening ceremony of the second European gay writer's conference, "Satisfaction." It was October 1988 "Satisfaction." It was October 1988 in a fancy convention center. The beautiful posters advertising "Satisfaction" showed a huge pink feather writing quill as the symbol of the event. We queer scribblers came to sit for a week in the lap of Dutch government-funded luxury. We gathered with great excitement We gathered with great excitement we gathered with great excitement to be welcomed by the Minister of Culture. All of us non-Dutch folks were properly agog at being acknowledged by such a high gov-ernment official. Imagine a cabinet secretary speaking to a bunch of fags and dykes in the U.S.! No, I can't either.

fags and dykes in the U.S.! No, I can't either.

We listened with growing bewilderment as the aging white man spoke to us in flawless English. He smugly told us that the growing prominence of gay people was a sign that Western culture was falling apart – "decadent," was his frequently used word. He droned on and on, elaborating on his thesis that we were a symptom, not of liberation, but of social rot. Gradually, it dawned on us that we were being insulted.

That pompous ass finally left the

That pompous ass finally left the stage and was quickly replaced by a string quartet. At the very moment the musicians launched into Mozart, the air was filled with a blizzard of tiny pink feathers thrown from the balconies. And at precisely the same instant, dozens of tuxedoed waiters plunged into the crowd, holding trays of champagne-filled glasses aloft.

Mozart, pink feathers, champagne, contempt – all for gay writers. What style, what opulence, what a glorious moment. What a mindfuck. ▼ That pompous ass finally left the

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PAGE 38-BAY AREA REPORTER-June 15, 1995

AUSTRALIA Legal: Homosexual legislation is different for each state. Age of consent varies as well. Depending on where you are in Australia, legal age could be as young as 16. In Tasmania, gay sex is illegal. Violence against gays ex sepecially evident in Sydney. HIV status is of no concern for tourists but it may become an issue for those who choose to extend their stay. [See story, page 46.]

AUSTRIA Legal: Although there are

sexual sex acts and the formation of gay political groups being formed, none are strictly enforced. Age of consent in Austria for straights is 18 but for gays it is 14. Vienna has a thriving gay culture.

A Lesbian's **Independence Day** in Slovenia

by Maria De La O

met Katarina in the spring of 1991. Her letter, listing an address from Yugoslavia, stood out clearly in the pages of *On Our Backs*, the magazine for "The Adventurous Lesbian."

I'm not the pen-pal type, but I just had to write

just had to write

That summer, I was going to stay with distant relatives in Yugoslavia and I was thrilled at the

Yugoslavia and I was thrilled at the possibility of meeting someone who, like me, was in her early twenties and a lesbian-leaning bisexual. As spring turned into summer, we struck up a lively correspondence. Katarina was a college student living in Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia. The northernmost republic of Yugoslavia, Slovenia was a hilly, industrialized patch of land just south of Austria and about the size of New Jersey. Although I was aware that tiny news dispatches

Although I was aware that tiny news dispatches declaring Slovenian plans for secession from Yugoslavia were becoming increasingly common in the New York Times, Katarina and I never discussed politics. We talked about our day-to-day lives, travels, and relationships — my letters tended to focus on my life in the gay Mecca of San Francisco, hers verged toward passionate pronouncements, including poetry and vibrant crayon drawings.

including poetry and vibrant crayon drawings.

She described how she organized poetry readings at the Roza Klub, saying that it was the first and only group for gays and lesbians in Yugoslavia, established in 1988 and operating with government support.

Always, we wrote of our mutual quest for the ever-elusive, universal experience. Love experience: Love.

'The more I'm with men ...

Katarina wrote, "At the beginning of January, I fell for a beautiful woman-girl, but as I always choose straight women (not deliberately, of course) it came to nothing." In another letter, she explained, "I try to get involved in other relationships (any kind, any sex), but the more I'm with men, the more I'm realizing I miss women." I sympathized.

traveled to Yugoslavia in June with my American-born grand-mother, whose parents hailed from the "Old Country." We trekked to Montenegro on the southwest coast Montenegro on the southwest coast of Yugoslavia, the republic where grandma's parents were born. Montenegro is a place of rugged beauty, then frequented by German, Russian, and Serbian tourists. Rocky mountains run right down to the Adriatic Sea; it looks like my imagined picture of Greece.

Kataring and I spoke on the

Katarina and I spoke on the telephone every few days. I tried to make plans to journey 500 or so miles to Ljubljana, weighing the

BELGIUM Legal: The age of consent in Belgium for homosexuals is 16. The cli-mate is tolerable of gays even though the general attitude towards them is dis-dain. There are gay bars and organiza-tions.

BELIZE Legal: Tolerance for homosexulars is limited in Belize. Very few gay groups or communities exist here.

BOLIVIA Legality questionable: Although there are no laws on the books concerning homosexual acts.

comparative advantages of plane, boat, or bus, while dodging grandma's safety concerns. (Grandma had been discussing the matter with her Montenegrin contemporaries, allied with the Serb government.) The younger generation assured me that as a U.S. citizen I wouldn't have any roblem soing wouldn't have any problem going to Slovenia, which was scheduled to declare independence on July

On the big day, I still hadn't made it to Ljubljana. Katarina called me, excitedly describing the Independence Day celebrations in the streets, the people drinking beer and watching fireworks. I was anxious to witness the birth of a new

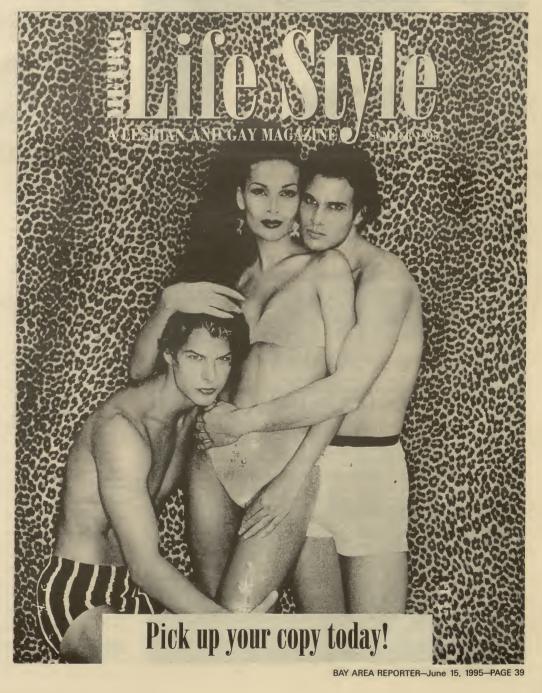
ious to witness the birth of a new country and join the fun. I vowed to leave that week.

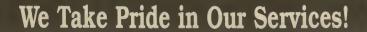
The next day, Katarina called again. She warned me against traveling to Ljubljana. There were sounds of helicopters flying above her house. I watched the CNN footage over and over – Serb tanks worden every Slavanick headen. moving across Slovenia's border: angry Slovenians vainly hurling rocks at the tanks.

Katarina survived the invasion and made it to Denmark, where she lived for several months. But she has since returned to Slovenia, still an "adventurous lesbian" determined to see independence. ▼



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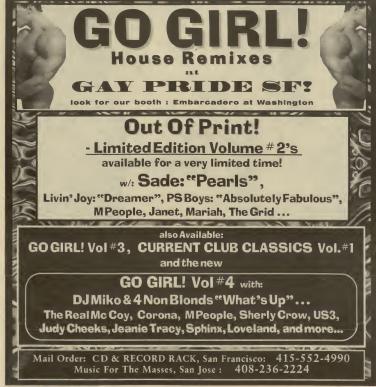


Happy Gay Pride!



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Russia: Where Victoria's **Secrets Still** Reign

by Charles Andromidas

ver the course of 25 years of studying and working in the Soviet Union and, now, the Federation, I have observed that while much has changed, much remains the same especially in the realm of "acceptable topics of conversation." Russian society, especially in comparison with Western ones, is positively Victorian. Personal qualities of being "well brought-up and proper" to use words that sound normal in Russian but resound of a different era to American ears – are important and dictate that the

different era to American ears – are important and dictate that the human body's functions and sexuality are taboo topics.

A class of seven normally incessantly chatty Katya's I once taught in Leningrad came to a grinding halt of silence when I asked a question about abortion in the Soviet Union. Privately, over the course of the next few days, each of the Katya's explained to me that while abortion was the primary means of birth control in their country, it was birth control in their country, it was never discussed. Not even with one's closest, most intimate

A far more personal example involves my oldest and closest friend in St. Petersburg, a man who – together with his mother, wife, and son – have become my family in Russia. Over the course of years, there was not much Yura and I had not discussed in numerous I had not discussed in numerous boozey smokey sessions around his kitchen table, but sexuality, specifically mine, had never been brought up. A huge aspect of my life, my relationship with my lover, our fears and concerns about AIDS—none of it had ever been mentioned because of my own warped sense of "When in Rome ... " pro-

'I've never known a homosexual'

a homosexual'

And, in fact, when I started to talk, my friend, a highly educated cosmopolitan and normally verbal man, was stunned into silence. Finally, he was able to whisper to me, "Forgive me, but I've never known a homosexual, and I don't know what to say." Yura got over his shock and has since stayed with my lover and me in our home in San-Francisco, and we have both been Francisco, and we have both been back to stay at Yura's in St. Petersburg, but his initial reaction spoke volumes about Russian sensitivities, values and traditions

If the operative underlying cultural value in Russia is not to recognize or talk about sexuality, the specifics of how and where to meet other gays and lesbians is further confining. Russians traditionally entertain and socialize at home. Restaurants, at which obscene amounts of food and alcohol are purchased for astronomical prices, are reserved for life's Big Events, such as weddings. At a birthday dinner at the House of Cinema in Moscow, a friend once confessed to me it was the first time she'd been me it was the first time she'd been in a restaurant in ten years! And while the average Russian is certainly no stranger to vodka, bars and so-called beer halls have always been holes of unspeakable filth, stench, and alcoholism.

In recent years, a few gay bars and discotheques have opened in Moscow and St. Petersburg, but according to the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, street crime and me it was the first time she'd been

gays have been sent to prison for up to five years for "sexual violations." Age of consent is 17.

BOSNIA/HERCEGOVINA Illegal: Illegal homosexuality applies only to male

BRAZIL Legal: Brazilian police often use the legal loophole of "safeguarding morality and public decency" to arrest gays. There is a new law that protects the rights of sexual minorities but AIDS has had a harsh effect on the political and social standing of gays. Age of consent is 18.

CAMBODIA Legality questionable: Sexual morality is extremely conserv tive, even for heterosexuals. No gay scene is obvious anywhere.

CANADA Legal: The age of consent for homosexuals is 14 but does not include anal sex. Strict laws also prohibit taking advantage of dependent minors. The ban against pays in the military was lifted in 1992 and 8 Canadian provinces have enacted laws prohibiting discrimination against gays. Acceptance of gays is particularly high in Canada but gay couples do not yet have the same rights as heterosexual couples. [See story, mans 581] as heteros

CHILE Illegal: Homosexual acts are subpiect to fines or imprisonment of up to five years. The attitude towards gays is less than tolerable but, somewhat evident in larger cities. Police frequently harass suspected gays. Immediate dismissal of gays in the military is mandatory but dismissal for drug addiction is

CHINA Legal: While there are no laws specifically against gays, homosexuality may be considered an offense under the

A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS



The first display of the NAMES Project Quilt in Russia drew a quiet, attentive crowd of Muscovites in 1991.

Mafia-type shakedowns are so widespread that patrons are urged not to leave some establishments until sun rise the next morning. Crime, organized and incidental, has become Russia's top societal problem, and few visitors to that beleaguered country can today return home without a hard luck story of victimization and the inability or unwillingness of police to react.

Where to meet a homosexual

a homosexual

So how do Russian gays and lesbians meet? Through friends and, of course, through cruising. In Soviet days, you were never sure if the hunky blond staring at your crotch in the metro wanted to get into your pants or to buy your pants. Today, happily, the former is probably the case as markets continue to expand and more goods are available, if at high prices. "My place or yours?" probably won't be an issue since housing, and privacy, continues to be tight in Russia with entire families normally living in two or three rooms.

rooms.

Another happy development in today's Russia is the disappearance from better hotels of the "Key Ladies," the seemingly military-trained grandmothers who sat at desks on each floor, ostensibly to collect and hand out room keys but also to pay attention to and report on who was entering rooms with whom.

An acquaintance of mine worked as an interpreter several years ago for one of the first groups of American gay and lesbian activists to travel to St. Petersburg to meet with Russian counterparts,

and she later told me it was striking to hear the different agendas each side had.

side had.

The American delegation arrived armed with ideas on how to organize, politicize, and affect change. The Russian group was overwhelmed just at the reality of being together in the same room with other gays and lesbians and wanted little more than to make social contacts. Gay and lesbian rights organizations have opened in numerous cities of the former Soviet Union but, as the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission states in its report on the status of the movement in Russia, they are primarily concerned with "community building, holding social gatherings, organizing discotheques and dating services, and setting up holdines."

in its report on the status of the movement in Russia, they are primarily concerned with "community building, holding social gatherings, organizing discotheques and dating services, and setting up hollines."

Why not? We would be unable to speak of our own progress in America "since Stonewall" if there had never been a Stonewall Inn and other meeting places for gays and lesbians in our own country. Russians, faced with Victorian societal attitude that can barely mention, let alone recognize, homosexuality probably do need to build a community.

Russians, faced with Victorian societal attitude that can barely mention, let alone recognize, homosexuality probably do need to build a community.

A current somewhat understated joke I heard in Moscow goes: "Interesting times we're living through, aren't they?" "Yes. Interesting to know when they'll end." The point is that Russians are living through not just interesting but chaotic, uncertain, and frightening times that we in America can barely imagine. The Russian gay and lesbian movement, as part of its own larger society, will certainly evolve in its own Russian way and at its own Russian pace.

"principal of harmony" code. Peking and Shanghai are beginning to see gay communities form and attitudes change for the better. People with AIDS are not allowed to enter China.

COLUMBIA Legal: Homosexuality is tolerated but remains a taboo. Americans, Haitians and African nationalists may be asked to take blood tests for HIV before entering the country.

COSTA RICA Legal: Homosexuality is tolerated even though the Catholic church maintains a strong adversarial presence. Age of consent is 18.

CROATIA Legal: The age of consent for homosexuals is 18 while the age of consent for straights is 14.

CUBA Legal: Homosexual displays in public are illegal and punishable by imprisonment under article 303 of Cuba's pentl code. Mandatory testing is done on high risk groups in Cuba and

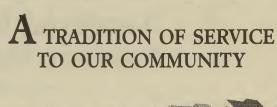
people with HIV are isolated in "special" hospitals. Tourists with HIV are not allowed more that a three month visit to Cuba. [See story, page 56.]

CYPRUS Illegal: Even attempts at homosexual acts are punishable by up to three years. Anti – gay laws are strictly enforced.

CZECH REPUBLIC Legal: The age of consent is 15.

DENMARK Legal: One of the most liberal countries in Europe, Denmark passed a gay marriage law for all homosexual couples. This law does not apply to couples of other nationalities. Registered partnerships are now recognized in Greenland as well. Danes are exceptionally open and friendly to gays. [See story, page 36.]

ECUADOR Illegal: Homosexual acts may be punished by up to 8 months in prison and harsher sentences are given to





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Thailand Struggles Against Stereotypes

by Sakchai Kabkrue

eing gay has not always been easy in Thailand, a country of 57 million people: Thai tradition, which is very strong, sometimes gets in the way. In recent years, however, it has become easier to be openly gay because of the progress achieved in the last decade by the first open, vocally gay people in Thailand. We learned a lot from these people, for they paved the way for us to make a mark in Thai society. They opened doors, and now it is our responsibility to see that these doors open wider and stay open.

Although the proliferation of AIDS in Thailand in recent years has been troublesome, the government has taken action to mitigate the problem. Now, Thailand is a leader in AIDS education in Asia. Close ties between the various gay and lesbian communities and local authorities in big cities like Bangkok, Pattaya, and Phuket have helped to ensure dissemination of important information about AIDS. eing gay has not always been easy in Thailand, a

In some respects, it is easy to understand why it is easier being homosexual in Thailand than almost anywhere else in Asia. Thailand's strong Buddhist tradition, which is not concerned with a judgmental God, a heaven, or a hell, has allowed for an openness and respect for others that is at odds with societies with stricter religious and cultural traditions. Because Thailand has been able to remain free from European domination – and, hence, Judeo-Christian traditions – we've been able to cultivate openness in Thailand as a way of life. a way of life.

I have read many books and articles from overseas that paint a picture of gay life in Thailand as one big drag emporium, like something out of the movie Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. In reality, though, this is not true. There are many gay people in Thailand who don't fall into the drag queen mold; however, this is the mold into which many people – including many Thai peo-

want to put Thai gays, no matter how diverse we seem to be. Dealing with this stereotype is something that we must come to grips with.

come to grips with.

This tendency to put homosexuals into molds indicates that Thailand, for all its openness, is still somewhat behind the Western world in terms of opportunities for gays. You're either a drag queen or nothing, is sometimes how it seems. We still have a long way to go in terms of bringing our lifestyles to a level of general acceptance, making others feel comfortable around us, and us around them. While gay life here is relatively open, life itself is still a struggle for many gays, especially those outside the major cities like Bangkok.

Overall, though, gay life in Thailand for me is something

Overall, though, gay life in Thailand for me is something quite good. I feel free. I have never been afraid to go anywhere at any time. And I don't think that is something that can be said of all countries around the world.



Guam: Where America's **World AIDS Day Begins**

by Vince Crisostomo

uam in the summer of 1977: the big news from the mainland is that Elvis the mainland is that Elvis has died and that Taco Bell has just opened a franchise on the island. My friends and I are learning to drive – and discovering the joys of sex. (One afternoon, after swimming, my friend rolled down his swimsuit to reveal a raging hard on. For a moment our eyes. ing hard on. For a moment, our eyes met and as I felt my own stiffness I turned and practically ran out of the

My family left the island shortly

New Year's Eve 1983. I have a

48-hour layover before going to Japan. Tonight after family obligations, I will attend a gay party, which will be my introduction to Guam's queer society. My cousin tells me I will be surprised at who I see, but it is not meant to be Shortly after midnight I pass out. In the heat of the Pacific, alcohol affects you differently.

Too bad; my friend from the summer of '77 tells me my pres-

summer of 77 tells me my presence was missed.

World AIDS Day 1992: in

America it begins on Guam. I am
here to speak as a person living with
HIV, the only Chamoru at the time

FRIDAYS!

to speak of being gay, having sex, my diseased male lover, the church, using condoms, disrespecting my mother, or anything that might embarrass my family.

But please, they ask me, tell us about your life.

I am not alone

I am not alone

The sun is setting and I am listening to the radio before the candlelight vigil at which I am scheduled to speak. The DI is talking about me. He is saying I am morally corrupt, that you only get AIDS from having sex with hundreds of people, that I should not be glorified for I am using my HIV status to become some kind of celebrity.

This is my home. The only place in this world I have ever felt I belonged. If I cannot be who I am here there is no place for me anywhere. Besides, I have a ticket. I can always leave tomorrow.

can always leave tomorrow.

So, I tell my story and I am very careful not to leave anything out.
The people listen and when I am done, there are tears in their eyes. For once in my life I am not scared. When I walk in the candlelight, I am not alone.

am not alone.

December 10, 1992: it's four hours before I board my flight to the mainland. My godmother, whom I haven't seen in 20 years,

whom I haven't seen in 20 years, has summoned me to her house.
"Only a true Chamoru could stand before his people, speak his truth and be accepted," she said. "We don't talk about these things, but now you've brought it up and we are talking about it.
"This is a good thing."

"This is a good thing."

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Hors D'hoeurves

on the house.

those in a dependent situation. There are no gay scenes and the police frequently raid cruising areas. A self – help group has been started for people living with AIDS.

EGYPT Legal: Gays are closeted in Egypt due to strict moral codes and public opinion. Visitors are advised not to show open displays of homosexual

EL SALVADOR Legal: In the more populated regions gays are tolerated while they are hated in the more rural areas.

ETHIOPIA Illegal: Homosexuality is not tolerated and is punishable by up to 10 years in prison if the sexual act is involved with violence. Strict punishment is also applied to offenders who have sex with minors under 15 years old.

FIJI Illegal: Penalty for gay sex is a maximum of 14 years and even an attempt at gay sex is punishable by up to 7 years under Fiji penal codes 168 - 170.

Hour .. PAGE 42-BAY AREA REPORTER-June 15, 1995

ocktail

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In recognition of Gay Pride Month, Bud Light is joining together with The Godfather Service Fund in the fight against AIDS. Anheuser-Busch will make a cash donation and in addition Bud Light in conjunction with our local Bay Area Wholesalers will make a cents-per-case donation for all Bud Light sales

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Japan: **Tolerance for Invisibility**

by Phred Komori Dvorak

t was a crisp January evening in 1989. I was huddled in the back seat of my aunt's Toyota, exhausted after a day of sightseeing in the mountains of eastern Japan. My lover – my roommate to everyone but me – was dozing on my shoulder in a Pramamine-induced stupor. der in a Dramamine-induced stupor, having thrown up three times as we zig-zagged along the winding

A mindless silence had settled

over the car, when suddenly my aunt let go with a brittle laugh. "You two certainly are good friends," she said, darting a glance

triends," she said, darting a glance at us in the rear-view mirror as she drove. "When you're that close, people will think you're lesbians."

I froze. My grandmother, hunched in the passenger seat, stared blankly ahead, as if nothing had been said.

And that was that During my

And that was that. During my nine years in Japan, it was the first and last time a member of my Japanese family used the "L" word

in my presence.

My "roommate" and I continued to live happily together for two more years, three more, five, seven. more years, three more, five, seven. Every winter we received cordial invitations to spend the holidays with my relatives in Ibaraki Prefecture, a few hours east of our apartment in Tokyo. When we went, my grandmother fed us large helpings of expensive salted fish eggs, and my aunt called us over to chat about her hothouse plants. Nobody ever questioned our relationship directly. And we never told.

Don't ask, don't tell

That's how life has been for many lesbians and gay men in Japan: an uneasy trade-off of tolerance for invisibility – "don't ask, don't tell" on a national scale. But some of that invisibility has been eroding recently, as a mounting tide of media attention and gay open-ness have thrust queer life before

ness have thrust queer life before the public eye.

Dating clubs and gay bars have existed quietly in Japan for a long time, but the past few years have seen a flowering of openly gay cul-ture. There was the first lesbian and gay film festival in 1992, the first gay bookstore in 1993, the first gay

gay bookstore in 1993, the first gay parade in 1994.

Lesbians in particular have begun to emerge from the woodwork. In the past three years, two lesbians have published books about their lives and scores more came out in a lesbian issue of populture magazine Takarajima.

The lampase leader for eavy in.

The Japanese leader for gay, in-your-face activism is the nine-year-old Occur, Association for the Lesbian and Gay Movement, which, despite its name, is dominat-ed by men. In 1991, the group

brought a discrimination suit against the Tokyo metropolitan government, which had barred them from staying overnight at a public youth facility. Occur won last March after a three-year struggle, and was awarded \$2,600 in compensation. The Tokyo government is appealing the decision.

For all the progress in building

For all the progress in building visibility, political activism in Japan remains uncommon. There are few effective coalitions between gays effective coalitions between gays and lesbians, and the two groups seldom work or socialize together. Seven years ago, in a rare show of solidarity, lesbian and gay male groups joined to fight the passage of an AIDS control law. Among other things, the law required that people with AIDS be reported to the rowerment and foreigners with the

people with AIDS be reported to the government and foreigners with the disease restricted from entry into Japan. The law passed.

But, in general, Japan has little legislation restricting homosexual behavior, and a great deal of permissiveness toward sexual ambiguity. If open homosexuality is a nono, gender-bending is rife. Hordes of screaming females cheer their male-impersonating idols in the all-woman Takarazuka theatre; sobersuited businessmen have no qualms suited businessmen have no qualms about camping it up in drag before their fellow corporate warriors dur-ing company retreats. Girls' comic books, the hippest purveyors of Japanese youth culture, regularly depict male homosexuality, and occasionally, liaisons between

Family is everything

Pamily is everything
Neither Buddhism nor Shinto,
Japan's two principle religions,
condemn homosexuality the way
Judeo-Christianity and Islam do. If
there is a religion that blocks gay
lifestyle in Japan, it is the religion
of the family. Pressure to marry and
have children is intense. On the other hand, same-sex relationships

other hand, same-sex relationships are often tolerated after marriage.

The status quo for gays and lesbians in Japan is fragile, not completely satisfactory, but bearable. Gays and lesbians might be on TV and in the news for the first time, but many individual queers, myself included, are content to stay in the but many individual queers, myself included, are content to stay in the closet rather than risk family ostracism by coming out. After all, "don't ask don't tell" Japan-style can be stretched a long way. To my Japanese relatives, my lover and I are just friends, even after moving 5,000 miles from Tokyo to Oakland together.

Winter holidays this year meant a long-distance call rather than a visit to Ibaraki. On the phone I exchanged pleasantries with an uncle, chatted about the weather, then my grandmother came on the line. "How's your roommate?" she

FINLAND Legal: The age of consent is 18 for homosexuals. More and more, a liberal climate is evolving in Finland. Gay rights laws have been discussed recently as well as the abolishment of existing anti – gay legislation.

FRANCE Legal: The age of consent is 16 for homosexuals but be aware that parents of a minor may choose to press charges if the other sex partner was over 18. France is a very liberal country that is somewhat undeserving of its snobbish reputation. A large gay press has emerged as well as gay radio and

television stations. Paris is of course the center of gay life in France but gay cultures are prominent throughout this scenic, romantic country. Gays are also permitted to serve openly.

SERMANY Legal: Once a horrific atmosphere for gays (as well as many other groups considered "blemishes" on society. Germany is beginning to liberate itself from its hateful past. The German gay movement has made excellent strides in the last 25 years. Germany is now more open and tolerable of homosexuality, though in more rural areas of

Photo: Rick Gerharter

Atheism

Atheism is...

...a declaration of independence from religion.

...a release from the confining influence of superstition.

...the recognition that there is no credible evidence of a higher power nor any rational basis for the belief in a deity.

...something that helps to negate the influence of harmful attitudes such as homophobia, sexism, racism, and xenophobia which religion promotes.

...an excellent reason for having a happy, meaningful life now in this world.

Atheism is not...

...a religion. Atheism represents freedom from religion.

...satanism, devil worship, etc. Atheists do not believe in any of that nonsense.

...negative. Freedom and rational thought make life better, not worse.

W hat guides your life? Are you in control of your own destiny? Or are you bound by traditional authority or peer belief? If you have shed yourself of blind obedience to what others have decided should be your shining star, you may have more in common with atheists than you realize.

Atheists come in many varieties

and shades, but have certain qualities in common. Atheists question. Atheists are rational. Atheists have many different points of view, some of which are expressed in humanism, rationalism, existentialism, objectivism, or combinations of them. An atheist bases her or his lifestyle on the experience of the living, not arbitrary authority or creeds. Life can be maximized in the here and now, and atheists are concerned with improving the quality of life for making themselves and others happy.

Gay and Lesbian Atheists and Humanists (GALAH) educates our community about freethought. GALAH has an informative newsletter which updates members on lesbian/gay and church/state separation issues. GALAH also has a discussion group in the Los Angeles area.

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Realization of this project was made possible through a grant of the Morgan R. Pinney Trust

Asexuality, Activism, and Almodovar:

A Gay Singaporean Odyssey

n 1988 a typically caffeine-addicted 20-year-old first-year medical student from Singapore named Plowy had (like many of his fellow gay Singaporeans) been kept so sheilded from images of homosexuality he worried asexuality was his destiny. Fortunately, a fateful *Time* magazine review that had inexplicably slipped by Prime Minister-Lurned-Senior Minister Lee uan Yew and his censors would change all

that.

The Time critic had so enthusiastically hailed a defiant gay phenomenon of Spanish cinema – appropriately titled The Law of Desire – Plowy made up his mind to travel to Australia in search of the film that June; he was sure it would never play his homeland.

Plowy recognized the gaudy poster outside the art-house theater on Melbourne's Collins Street, and recognized the name of the direc-tor from that fateful article: Pedro Almodovar, the first openly queer personality he had ever read about. His eyes rolled with disbelief at the opening sequence of the film, in which a movie director named Pablo is seen filming a

scene with a naked young actor.

It was pulse-quickeningly homoerotic – and even better, it was all so unmistakably matter-of-fact.

matter-of-fact.

In December of 1990, Plowy visited Australia again for Christmas break, resolved to take those tentative maiden steps out of the national closet into the friendly arms of Sydney's lavender enclave Oxford Street. But even so, he found himself repeatedly glancing

over his shoulder, fearing any familiar faces

from home.

Beginner's luck smiled upon him: Plowy soon met Glen – his first – at cruisy Lady Jane Beach, and took him to Martin's Place, where Almodovar's Tie Me Up! Tie Me Down! was playing. Yet unschooled in the pieties of political correctness, Plowy was helpless in the face of Almodovar's orchestation of wister treation of wister tration of twisted tragedy and milking of

tration of twisted tragedy and milking of reluctant compassion.

On his return to Singapore, Plowy lost no time in involving himself vigorously in the Singapore Film Society, a volunteer group that ran non-commercial fare. (Such a group was undoubtedly needed. After decades of being told by bureaucrats what one should or should told by bureaucrats what one should or should not watch, any Singaporean would have concluded two men together in bed posed a greater sociological threat than Freddy Kreuger's serial rampage; the Nightmare on Elm Street series enjoyed a jackpot run on the local circuit, but the society was denied permission to show Maurice.)

It was at the society that Plowy made is first-ever gay friend, and found life was beginning anew; the doors to the island republic's never-before-heard-of queer community were standing invitingly ajar.

were standing invitingly ajar.

No turning back

During his first year at Stanford University, where Plowy transfered to contin-ue his education, he joined its queer commu-

nity in complaining about ABC's hesitation to show a same-sex kiss on a *Roseanne* episode; around the same time, in March of 1994, the *San Francisco Chronicle* ran an item that reported that filmmaker Eric Khoo's challenging entry in Singapore's Best Short Film competition, *Pain*, had won – despite being officially barred from public exhibition. While Plowy enjoyrf the luxury of debating in *The Stanford Daily* on *Philadelphia's* lack of

Plowy enjoyrf the luxury of debating in The Stanford Daily on Philadelphia's lack of male-to-male intimacy, letters from home related the banning of Tongues Untied from screening at a performance art forum in January 1994.

Josef Ng, one of the artists, was detained by authorities after he had shaved his pubic hair and burned it along with copies of The New Paper (a National Enquirer-style tabloid) during his routine protests of the paper's expose-like coverage of gay men who'd been arrested by police entrapment tactics.

As U.S. presidents, both past and present, wept over the number of strokes to befall Michael Fay's behind, the world quietly averted its eyes from the dozen Singaporean gay men also lined up over the flogging bench.

They were the latest batch rounded up for mistaking law enforcers in disguise for fellow queers at the beach.

queers at the beach.

Plowy would always recall how only two years earlier he had himself been lined up alongside his brothers in arms by verbally abusive policemen during a raid of Rascals, the local closed-door gay disco back home. But as Plowy surrendered his identity card to

be recorded that night, what brewed inside was not devastation but a mysteriously gratifying sense of affirmation, meaning one thing: there was no turning back now.

Almodovar could be telekinetic. In Kika, his last completed feature, reality-show host Andrea subjects the innocent title character,

Andrea subjects the innocent title character, a rape victim, to an even greater travesty in public: taped footage of Kika's harrowing ordeal is shown on Andrea's show. Watching it at the 1994 San Francisco International Film Festival, Plowy could not help but imagine that the scoop-monger at *The New Paper* – the reporter who posed as bait for unsuspecting gay men for a cover expose – should find ample common-ground to identify with Andrea's exploits. Evil are those who partake and revel in the downfall of others.

who partake and rever in the downian of others.

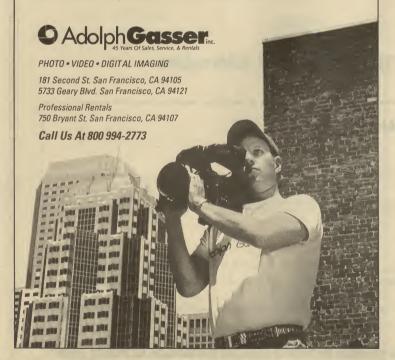
It is time for Plowy to graduate from Stanford, as a student of film and an out gay man, two things largely inconceivable in Singapore. But his interest in cinema was never meant to earn him passage to ivyadorned Disneylands. Perhaps it is more personal, a means to assert pride in an existence systematically and historically denied by his government. Perhaps it is fuel for distilling and understanding anger.

What's more, Plowy awaits Almodovar's latest project with bated breath. The Heart of Flower might sound innocuous enough, but knowing Plowy – and knowing Pedro – there will be something in it to help get that bile moving right along.

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Queer **Down Under**

by James Doyle

ustralia is such an enormous country, with so many different geographies and nationalities, that it's not easy to generalize about anything, including homosexuality. Acceptance varies from city to city to city and the second control of the country of the countr and state to state, as do laws: in some states homosexuality is still illegal. In the Australian Capital illegal. In the Australian Capital Territory, the age of consent for gays is 18. It's 16 in Victoria, and in South Australia it's 17. In Western Australia, the gay male age of consent is 21 (according to the Spartacus guide, it's 16 for lesbians and heterosexuals).

Gay lifestyles down under run the gamut, with something for everybody – femmes, butches, and everything in between. The main centers of the gay and lesbian movement are located in Melbourne and Sydney, but solid

centers of the gay and lesbian movement are located in Melbourne and Sydney, but solid gay organizations in those cities have helped to reach gays and lesbians in the outback, the more isolated regions of Australia.

One of the more important topics being discussed right now in Australia is safe sex, a message that has become important to everyone in Australia, not just the gay community. Television, radio.

gay community. Television, radio, and related media working with individual AIDS organizations throughout Australia have helped

to get this message out.

The party of the year

The party of the year

The annual Mardi Gras in
Sydney is huge, to say the least. It's
camp at its best. This is an event
that has a great social impact on
Aussies, as the festival brings to the
masses a positive image of gays and
lesbians. It also impresses upon
those who continue to entertain
homophobic feelings – and there
are pockets of homophobia in
Australia – the size and intensity
of the gav/lesbian movement in this Australia - the size and intensity of the gay/lesbian movement in this country. Clearly, we are not going

Life in gay Australia isn't hard, except for those few places where people of our persuasion simply aren't accepted. In New South Wales (and in South Australia) a law was recently passed that forbids discrimination against homosexuals in housing and other areas. This is a good sign. For me, the pleasures of being gay in Australia have far out-weighed the negatives. The great open spaces of our country, and its

open spaces of our country, and its almost unchanging year-round sunniness, foster an attitude of social acceptance and tolerance.

The gay centers in Australia that shouldn't be overlooked by lavender travelers are Adelaide, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney, and Brisbane. ▼

the country gays have considerable problems with religious followers. The age of consent is now 16. There are no promotions for openly gay conscripts in the German military. [See story, page 35.]

CREECE Legal: The age of consent is 15 for women and 17 for men. While homosexuality is considered a taboo in this macho – oriented country, many men have sexual encounters with other men and remain closeted. Denly gay tourists are not usually bothered here because of the importance of the income that tourists bring to Greece. Gays are

exempt from mandatory service in the military because homosexuality is considered a psychological disorder. Recently, Thessaloniki funeral homes have refused to handle the bodies of AIDS victims, forcing the families to bury the dead themselves.

GUYANA Illegal: Attempted "buggery" is punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment while the act of "buggery" itself will get you life in prison. Section 351 criminalizes any acts, in private or public, of gross indecency.





About 60 men turned out for the December 1994 conference, "Emerging Gay Identities in South Asia," in Bombay

Are There Gay Bars in India?

by Sandip Roy

ven a few years ago my essay about gay life in India would have been a very short one – there are gay men in India, but there is nothing called a gay life. As for lesbians, I knew they must exist but they did not figure in my sexual arithmetic at all. Now, several cities in India have all. Now, several cities in India have their own gay groups and publications. In December '93, the Naz Project organized a seminar on alternative sexuality in Delhi. A year later, 60 men attended a fourday conference in Bombay called "Emerging Gay Identities in South Asia"

In the early '80s, gay and lesbian South Asian' In the West started to organize around their sexuality and ethnicity, a movement that resulted in the formation of groups like Anamika, Trikone, Shakti, Khush. These groups also helped gay men and women back home connect with each other. Since some of the impetus came from the West, some critics feel that for the gay movement in India the sun rose in the West. But gay life in India started long before the life in India started long before the

The Kamasutra, the 4th century treatise on sexual matters, has an entire chapter on homosexuality, discussing same-sex marriages (parigraha) as well as an eight-step guide to fellatio. Ancient Indian tra ditions embraced the sexual dual-ism of Ardhanariswara, the half-male, half-female form of the Hindu god Siva. Tantra philosophy involved rites of anal penetration to arouse the *kundalini*, the coiled serpentine power of enlightenment. Even now exquisite depictions of same-sex eroticism are frozen into stone in the temples of Khajuraho and Konarak

Under Muslim rule, homosexual love was very much a tradition of the Mughal courts. The first Mughal emperor Babar wrote about his love affair with the boy Babar in Tuzuk-i-Babri. Islamic Sufi literature is replete with romanticized evocation of homosexual eroticism.

Buggery rules

Rather than a flourishing homo-sexual culture, ancient India was characterized by a frankness about characterized by a transness about sexuality. British rule strapped a Victorian corset of "morality" around all the British colonies. An example of this was Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code, enacted in 1861, which made "carnal intercourse against the order of nature with an example of the property of the property

course against the order of nature with any man, woman, animal" a punishable offense.

This has resulted in the widespread belief that homosexuality is illegal in India. But the bark of Section 377 is really worse than its bite. It has been enforced sporadi-

cally, but what is far more common is harassment and extortion by policemen in cruising areas. The stigma attached to homosexuality is not so much legislative as it is

In a society that seems embar-rassed to talk about sex, the hijras rassed to talk about sex, the hijras (eunuchs/hermaphrodites) stand out in bold and defiant contrast. Part of the regal traditions of the ancient empires (Roman, Ottoman etc.), they have survived, it seems, as a class only in India and Pakistan. Hijras live together under a guru in a tibit-knit community owing alle-Hijras live together under a guru in a tight-knit community owing allegiance to the goddess Bahuchara Mata. Many hijras claim to be hermaphrodites who give up their male genitalia to the goddess. Dressed in the gaudiest silks and nylons, they sing and dance at weddings and birth celebrations, often shocking middle-class sensibilities by threatening to pull un their saris. Many middle-class sensibilities by Inreat-ening to pull up their saris. Many homosexuals in India live in terror of being identified with the hijras, yet, in their own bold, raucous way, hijras have built a community and support structure which many gays with thoused. wish they had.

Carry your own condoms

Despite the more organized gay oups springing up, a lot of gay life groups springing up, a not of gay life in India does not extend beyond the zippers. Many men see no conflict in a quick encounter before going home, where wife waits with dinner. The sex is often furtive and unsafe. Activist groups like Bombay Dost have done outreach in parks and toilets in a attempt to Bombay Dost have done outreach in parks and toilets in an attempt to educate people about safe sex. But it is not always easy to penetrate the myth that AIDS only happens among gays in America and female prostitutes in India. Condoms, especially the government-issued Nirodhs, are notoriously untrustworthy, especially for anal sex. Newer brands like Kamasutra are much better, but a tourist would be advised to carry his or her own.

much better, but a tourist would be advised to carry his or her own.

The abundance of gay sex does not necessarily point to a gay cul-ture, at least not in the way we are used to defining gay cultures in the West. For example, in India, the truck drivers who transport loads truck drivers who transport loads along the highways crisscrossing India often carry young boys with them. Sex with these boys is called "cleaning the pipes" in roadside slang. But when they reach a big town, the driver will probably go off to the local brothel without a back-

to the local promer without a check-ward glance.

Millions of young men come to work in the cities, leaving their wives and children in the village. They may not see them for months at a time. Many of them engage in gay sex either to make a quick buck

or just because they are lonely and

Lesbians have it hardest

In a part of the world where the culture is strongly patriarchal, lesbians bear a double cross – as women and as women who love women. The pressure on them to marry and bear children is intense. Not surprisingly, there are only a few visible lesbian groups in India (like Sakhi), although many lesbians are at the forefront of feminist

groups. But then again, there are the two policewomen in Bhopal, Lila and Urmila, who attracted national attention by marrying each other. They were summarily discharged. Gita and Sati committed suicide in Kerala in Southern India after Sati was married off. And there are the two village women. Anna and two village women, Aruna and Sudha, who signed a maitri karar (friendship agreement) before the notary public in Baroda in Western

All those neat labels used to classify and docket gay cultures in the West get blown away in the heat

and dust of India. Gay culture as we know it, say, a neighborhood like the Castro in San Francisco, or a Gay Pride Rally in New York, mean nothing in India. But under the looming shadow of the monolithic family, out of a morass of shame and denial, countless Lilas and Urmilas are daring to live and love on their own terms. ▼

Sandip Roy is the editor of Trikone magazine. He has also been published in Christopher Street, and India Currents.

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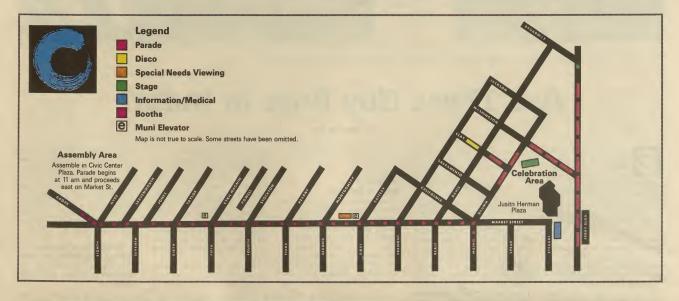
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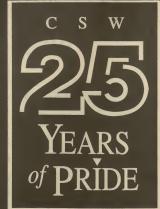
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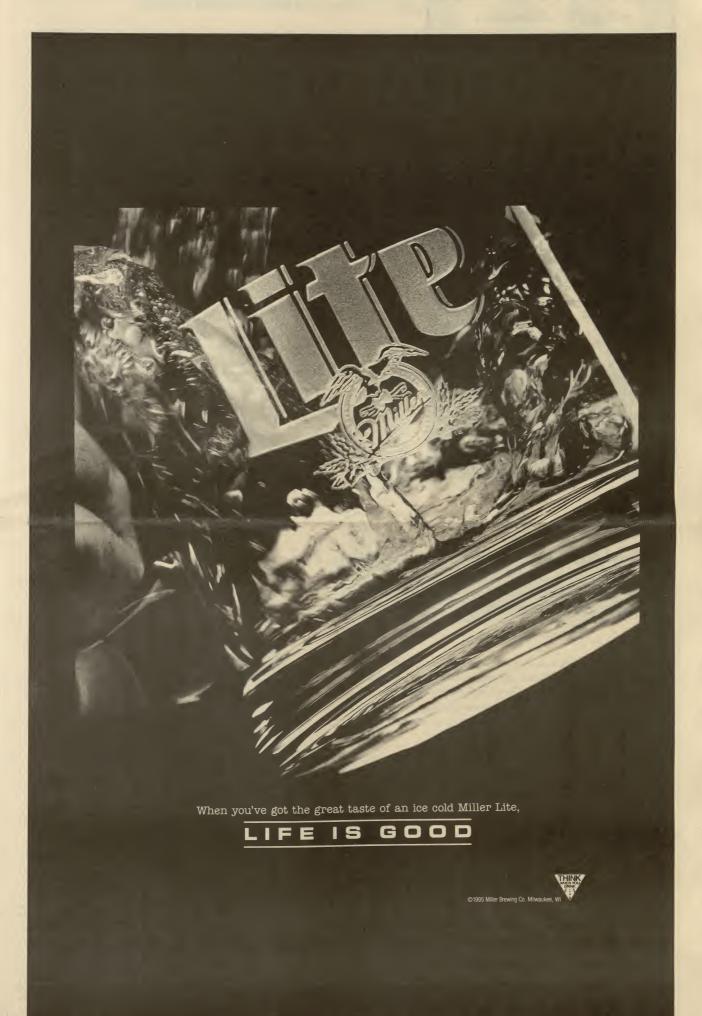












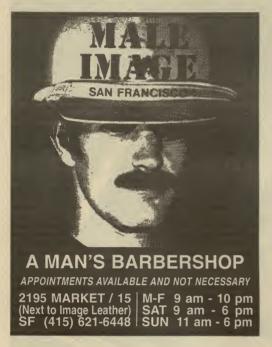


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Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Rights in the New South Africa:

The Struggle Continues

by Gerald Lenoir Jr. and Frances M. Beal



ne year after South Africa's historic all-race elections, the country's gay, lesbian, and bisexu-ent has set its sights on retaining its newly won constitu-tional rights. South Africa's Interim tional rights. South Africa's Interim Constitution bans discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation – a world first. The Constitutional Assembly under the newly-elected Government of National Unity (GNU), composed of the 400 members of the National Assembly and the 90 members of the Senate, is busy deliberating and holding hearings across the country to seek public input into a permanent constitution lic input into a permanent constitu-tion to take effect in 1999.

Lesbians, gays, and bisexuals throughout South Africa have been organizing to affect the outcome of that process. On December 3, 1994 the National Gay and Lesbian Legal and Human Rights Conference was and runnan runnar signs conference was held under the theme, "Sexual Orientation: Equality and Justice." More than 80 participants discussed four objectives for the lesbian, gay, and bisexual movement – retaining the sexual orientation clause in the Constitution; decriminalizing same-sex conduct; creating Constitutional litigation challenging discrimina-tion against same-sex relationships; and training representative and effective leaders within lesbian,

gay, and bisexual organizations.

Out of the conference, the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality emerged with the mission of campaigning for the equality clause. Fifty-four lesbian, gay, and bisexual organizations in seven of nine provinces are represented in the coalition. "It was a historic meeting," according to Zackie Achmat, one of the coalition's convenors. "It brought us together for the first time, really, organizations across racial, class

organizations across racial, class and gender lines."

The current efforts to secure permanent constitutional protection for gays and lesbians were predated by the fight which began in 1989 to get the African National Congress to recognize gay, lesbian and bisexual rights. That battle was led by the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Witswaterspand (GI OW) a pre-Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Witswatersand (GLOW), a pre-dominately black organization in the Greater Johannesburg area. In 1989, GLOW founder, Simon Nkoli, wrote a letter to Thabo Mbeki, then an official in the exiled African National Congress, now Deputy Executive Vice President in the Government of National Unity. "I asked him what his personal standpoint on gay and lesbian rights was, since I knew that the ANC did not have a position as an organization," Nkoli recounted. Mbeki's tion, NROII recounted. wheel s response was extremely positive. "He responded by saying that gay and lesbian people are part and parcel of the oppressed people of South Africa and should not be discriminated against," said Nkoli.

There are African lesbian and gay people

lesbian and gay people
When Mbeki's letter to GLOW
was published in European gay
newspapers, Ruth Mompati, another ANC official, made a published
statement to the effect that homosexuality is anti-African, sexually
deviant, and could not be tolerated,
according to Nkoli. In the face of
this attack GLOW and the
Organization of Lesbian and Gay
Activists (OLGA) in Cape Town
decided to seek an official ANC
response. Nkoli and a representative
from OLGA traveled to Lusaka,
Zambia to meet with ANC officials.
They presented the ANC with a They presented the ANC with a position paper on lesbian, gay, and bisexual rights and asked for a policy statement. At that meeting Ruth Mompati apologized for her slan-der, noting that she did not know that there were African gay and les-

bian people.

Shortly after the meeting, in 1990, GLOW received a letter from

Albie Sachs, the head of an ANC committee charged with drafting an interim constitution. Sachs asked GLOW to articulate the demands of GLOW to articulate the demands of the gay and lesbian community. GLOW then spearheaded an effort to survey the gay, lesbian and bisex-ual community. A questionnaire was printed in the community newspapers, which garnered over 100 demands from the respondents.

Two years later, in December, 1992, the first Gay and Lesbian Conference was organized and the conference approved the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Charter. At that time, the ANC had been unbanned for two years and was part of a multi-party negotiation for all-race elections and an interim

part of a multi-party negotiation for all-race elections and an interim constitution.

"We submitted the Charter and the equality clause itself," Nkoli remembers. "We were consulting with every single party. AZAPO (Azanian People's Organization] and PAC [Pan Africanist Congress] were quite negative. The IFP [Inkatha Freedom Party] said they didn't really know. The ANC and the DP [Democratic Party] were the the DP [Democratic Party] were the only two parties that said they supported the equality clause." However, the DP indicated that they could not support the clause pub-

licly.
"The ANC said, 'We don't dis-"The ANC said, 'We don't dis-criminate. We will insure that the clause will be in the interim consti-tution,'" according to Nkoli. The ANC delivered on its promise, and the interim constitution that went into effect last year contained the equality clause. For the past year, gay, lesbian, and bisexual organizations through-out the country have been lobbying for the retention of the equality clause in the permanent constitu-tion. In an interview in Outright, a

tion. In an interview in *Outright*, a lesbian, gay, and bisexual monthly magazine in South Africa, gay activist Kevan Botha, a lobbyist for

activist Kevan Botha, a lobbyist for the National Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Equality (NCGLE), said that the strategy of the Coalition is to be "persuasive rather that confrontational.

"We need to put our case professionally and clearly, and we will not resort to actions which will only serve to fuel the fire and increase the level of opposition against us instead of gaining support for us," added Botha. added Botha

Reminiscent of apartheid

The opposition to the equality clause comes from conservatives, the Christian right and traditional

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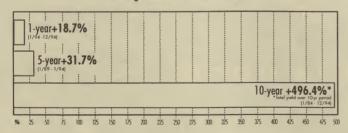
companies like to proclaim their pro-gay position, their investments often lie with companies who are less than gay friendly, to say the least. We're determined to change all that, while affording our clients healthy returns on their investments.

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Sound Investments. Mutual Respect Pride Fund Co., Inc., is a California Registered Corporation. **DURAS** Legal: The government is pathetic to gay causes and this attry is the most liberal of all Latin rican countries.

HUNCARY Legal: The age of consent for homosexuals is 18 but for heterosexuals it is 14. Violations of this law are punishable by up to 3 years in prison. The country has swayed towards a more liberal attitude in recent years.

ICELAND Legal: Homosexual acts between legal adults is allowed. The age of consent is 16. Gays still suffer a gen-eral lack of respect in this Scandinavian

INDIA Illegal: There can be "no carnal intercourse between men, women or animals" according to article 377 of India's penal code. A gay movement has begun in India. [See story, page 47.]

RAN Illegal: Homosexuality is punish

FELAND Legal: Only two years ago Ireland decriminalized homosexual acts between men and made the consenting age 17 years old.

ERAEL Legal: Despite great strides for homosexual rights and freedoms in larael, few gay communities exist. With anti – discrimination laws, freedom to serve in the military and other recent political gains, homosexuals can find great liberation in this very religious country.

A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS



Coffee shops in the Yoville section of Johannesburg are progressive and gay-friendly.



Dildo demos: The Township AIDS Project of Soweto does educational work among all sectors, especially youth.

leaders. Within the GNU, two small parties, the Freedom Front and the African Christian Democratic Party (ACDP), are leading the homophobic charge. At the opening session of the Constitutional Assembly in or the Constitutional Assembly in late January on this year, ACDP leader Kenneth Meshoe stated, "The Bible tells us that God created Adam and Eve and not Adam and Steve." Meshoe continued his attack by saying that the new constitution should build the nation by building "families." He considers homosexulative "against the will per God and ality "against the will of God and African culture" and insists that the only rights that should be included in the constitution should be "Biblical rights."

Botha counters Meshoe's statements by saying, "He has failed to mention that tolerance and respect

for the beliefs of others are the cen-

for the beliefs of others are the central tenets of most religious views. ... This [discrimination against homosexuals] is reminiscent of the exclusion and discrimination perpetuated in the name of apartheid." Bev Disti, oc-chair of GLOW, fears that even though these parties are extremely small, their attitudes reflect the thinking of many South Africans of all races. "How they [ACDP] are mobilizing is by getting all the other ignorant people to know that there is an equality clause that protects gays and lesbians," she maintains. She also says that the Christian right is promoting the idea that gay men are spreading HIV disease, even in the face of the fact that over 80 percent of the cases of AIDS in the country are among heterosexuals.

In February of this year, Nkoli

and Phumizile Mtetwa met with President Nelson Mandela as members of the NCGLE's interim exec-utive committee. They thanked him for mentioning sexual orientation in for mentioning sexual orientation in his inauguration speech and pressed their campaign for the equality clause. President Mandela reiterated his support for the equality clause and stated, "Everyone should be equal, as long as he or she is not committing a crime."

There is a lot at stake in the fight for equality. According to Disc.

for equality. According to Ditsi, "Under apartheid, 87 percent of the men arrested under the sodomy laws were black, because they didn't have the money to pay off the cops, like their white counterparts," Ditsi sees the particular role that GLOW has played as "providing visibility because the reason why

the [equality] clause is under attack is that there is still this myth that there are not very many black gay and lesbian people in the country and that, therefore, this clause is

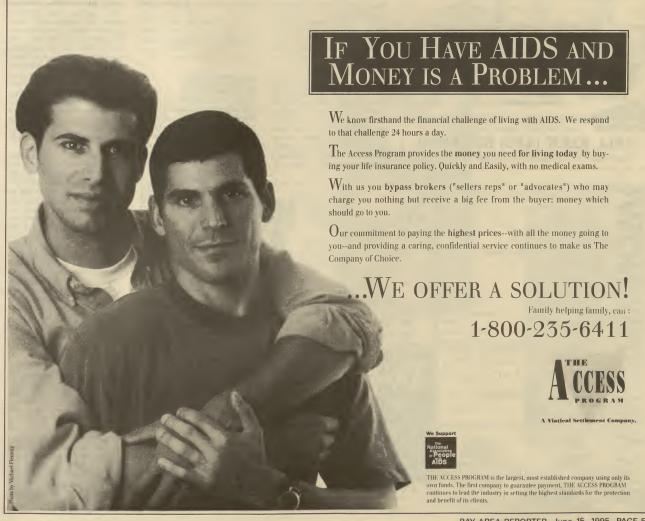
and that, therefore, this clause is only protecting a section of the white population. So, the argument goes, the president is actually selling out by supporting this clause."

The work of the Constitutional Assembly is scheduled to be completed by June of 1996. Between now and then, the National Coalition plans to organize at the grassroots and to continue lobbying the members of the Constitutional Assembly to retain the equality clause as is. Nkoli predicts victory in this struggle, but cautions, "One year from now, we won't have won the struggle, we will have advanced the struggle. That's an important

distinction."

South Africa has already won South Africa has already won the admiration of progressive people all over the world for the one-of-a-kind sexual orientation clause, as well as provisions banning the death penalty and supporting a woman's right to choose abortion, contained in its Interim Constitution. It now has the opportunity to the other period of the company and the other period of the company along in the company along in the accordance along in the admirator along in the company along in the tunity to win a permanent place in the annals of progressive history.

Gerald Lenoir Jr. is a free-lance journalist and execu-tive director of the San Francisco Black Coalition on AIDS. Frances M. Beal is a freelance journalist and legal assistant at the Northern California Chapter of the ACLU.









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A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS



Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LGADDA) took to the streets as part of a "Peace, Jobs and Justice" rally here

An American Encounter with Gay Life in Northern Nigeria

by Rudolf Pell Gaudio

mong the many myths in circulation about Africa is the idea that before the Europeans and Arabs brought their "corrupting" influences, Africa was an unspoiled continent where only "natural" het-erosexual practices prevailed. The news media constantly remind us that AIDS in Africa is spread through heterosexual intercourse, as if any other form of sexuality among Africans were unimaginable. And when it is acknowledged that there are African men who have sex with men and women who have sex with women, cultural sensitivity dictates that we think twice about calling these people "gay" or "les-

In the 18 months that I lived in Kano, Nigeria as a student-researcher I met many men and women familiar with same-sex love – more than enough to challenge - more than enough to challenge the ignorant homophobia of AIDS journalists and ethnocentric ideo-logues. But it is important to keep in mind the basic truth that people in different cultures understand themselves and their worlds in dif-

ferent ways: I never did meet a Nigerian who was gay or lesbian in Nigeran who was gay or lesbian in the same exact sense that we use those terms in the Euro-Western world. But I did meet people who identified themselves as "men who seek men" and "women who seek women," who socialized (discretely) with others like themselves, and who saw themselves as temperamentally distinct from prople who who saw themselves as tempera-mentally distinct from people who only have sex with members of the opposite sex. (Gay people are said to "see"; straight people are "blind.") Despite the many differ-ences between the ways these Nigerians and I thought about being gay, we did see each other as sexu-ally similar in many ways.

Ancient Islamic learning center

Kano is the largest city in the Hausa-speaking northern region of Nigeria and an ancient center of Islamic learning. Hausa Muslim society is sex-segregated; married women are usually secluded and veiled. (I therefore had very little contact with Hausa women.) While

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the city is home to an ethnically and religiously diverse population, many of its conservative religious leaders promote a political agenda that comes across as unfriendly to cultural outsiders.

cultural outsiders.

Islamic revivalist movements
have a wide following: Saddam
Hussein and Ayatollah Khomeini
are cultural heroes, their faces visible all over town on stickers affixed to motorcycles, buses and market stalls. In their Friday sermons, Kano's leading imams often rail Kano's leading imams often rail against the symptoms of social breakdown – sexual licentiousness, drug abuse, AIDS – which they frequently blame on the corrupting influences of the West. Last year, a newspaper with links to Iran published a front-page expose on a wedding celebration in Kano where two men allegedly got married. The article began with a sarcastic reference to Western cultural hegemony:

ence to Western cultural hegemony:
"Let us continue to imitate the
enlightenment and development of
the Europeans; now a man has married another man."
Despite the fundamentalist
hype, Kano has a thriving (though
covert) gay subculture that has few
ties to gay communities in the West.
Most gay Hausa men Linet had no ties to gay communities in the West. Most gay Hausa men I met had no idea how Western gays lived; some were shocked to meet a white man (me) who was gay. Many were surprised to hear that gay life in the West was more institutionalized and out in the open than it is in Kano, for Kano's gays tend to think of themselves as living in the hub. One of the first gay men I met there was a young man who called himself "a homo" and told me that Kano was the place to go in Nigeria if you wanted to meet other homos. An American who had lived in An American who had lived in Kano for many years called it "the San Francisco of West Africa."

Call me 'Dan

This is not to say a gay man from San Francisco could use his gaydar in Kano without some serigaydar in Kano without some serrous recalibration. The most visible
section of Kano's gay subculture is
comprised of men known as 'yan
daud (singular: 'dan daudu), who
are said to talk and act like women.
They cook and sell food (a feminine
occupation in Kano), and often live among female courtesans/prosti-tutes. At nightclubs and celebra-tions where traditional Hausa music is played, 'yan daudu sometimes join these women to dance in front

Continued on page 62



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Caribbean Queer: Gay Life in the Eastern Caribbean (Lesser Antilles)

by Garland Richard Kyle



rom the Virgin Islands to the coast of Venezuela, the Eastern Caribbean stretches for more than a thousand miles and is made up of a dozen closely knit "island/ village nations."

Often referred to as the Lesser Antilles, the Eastern Caribbean features some of the most beautiful island nations in the world. It's no surprise that they attract thousands of gay tourists to their shores each year. Despite the influx of foreigners, however, these islands are relatively traditional, socially conservative societies where anonymity is hardly a cherished cultural trait and where homosexuality is rarely openly displayed.

cultural trait and where homosexuality is rarely openly displayed.

While gay people can be found wandering beaches, shopping in Caribbean markets, or lounging poolside at tourist resorts, the less conspicuous homosexual is hard to find. There are few "out" homosexuals in these regions, at least as we know them in America. With the exception of the American and British Virgin Islands, the French islands of Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Barts, and St. Martin, and perhaps the Dutch islands, there are virtually no gay bars and few (if any) gay organizations.

organizations.

Like many parts of the developing world, it is difficult to discuss contemporary social conditions in the Lesser Antilles without understanding the colonial powers that ruled these islands for hundreds of years, leaving behind indelible cultural, linguistic, and social imprints. As a result of this legacy, the legal status of homosexuality and levels of tolerance in Antillean society are, more or less, dependent upon each soci-

ety's independence from European colonial powers.

Bisexuality is safer

Along with the Dutch Antilles (Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba), the French Antilles are overseas departments of France, and their inhabitants have all the rights of French citizens, including political representation – age of consent is 16; homosexuality is legal and tolerated. The impact of "les metropole" (white, French settlers) on the French Antilles is evident by the numbers of gay Europeans who frequent and live on these islands. (One of the finest restaurants on the island of Guadeloupe and one of the best hotels on Les Saintes are owned and operated by two gay men.)

owned and operated by two gay men.)
While the Virgin Islands and the Dutch and French Antilles form the more prosperous (and developed) island societies, the independent nation of St. Vincent is less prosperous and socially more restrictive, a place where sexuality is seldom discussed openly (though often joked about) and where bisexuality is a

independent nation of St. Vincent is less prosperous and socially more restrictive, a place where sexuality is seldom discussed openly (though often joked about) and where bisexuality is a more common practice.

"I've had affairs with men who are married with children," remarked Godfrey Sealey, a "rare openly homosexual Trinidadian" AIDS activist and playwright in a published interview. "The wife had no idea. I think they choose not to know." The concept of a double life is not uncommon here. In his book A Confinent of Islands author Mark Kurlansky states that

The concept of a double life is not uncommon here. In his book A Continent of Islands, author Mark Kurlansky states that one of the distinguishing characteristics of Antillean society is that "homosexuals and heterosexuals were far more separated communities in the U.S. than in the Caribbean." He also writes

of a special form of socializing called "liming" – "an Eastern Caribbean word for hanging around, talking, and joking with friends. The sight of people standing around at the end of the day, deep in conversation, telling stories and laughing is one of the characteristic sights of the Caribbean. But men don't lime much with women or vice versa, so throughout the Caribbean men have said that liming together was a safe way to meet male lovers."

AIDS education implemented

With the advent of the AIDS epidemic and the controversial debate over whether Haiti was the source of HIV transmission to the U.S., Kurlansky states that "no crisis in modern Caribbean society has done more to expose the raw nerves of Caribbean society as the AIDS epidemic." While Caribbean politicians ignored or lacked the courage to face the encroaching epidemic (a large percentage of cases were women), he writes: "The unwelcome task of sexual education has been accomplished largely by courageous and unpopular initiatives. In 1987, concerned citizens of Trinidad founded a National AIDS Committee to educate the population about the disease."

AIDS Committee to educate the population about the disease." Not unlike the U.S. in the early years of the epidemic, Antillean society was not prepared to deal with this deadly (and costly) sexually transmitted disease. AIDS became an economic, as well as social, threat, having devastated neighboring Hait's tourist economy and left its lucrative "investment climate" in a shambles. Few already strapped Caribbean nations could afford such a fate.

creet because even in largely gay meeting places the crowd tends to be mixed
with straights and there are few if any
totally gay clubs or bars. The age of
consent is 16 and prostitution is legal
for those over 18. Gays are tolerated as
long as they don't bring attention to
themselves by being feminine or campy.

JAPAN Legal: Age of consent in Japan is 13; the age when a male is considered to be a man. [See story, page 44.]

JORDAN Illegal: There is no gay scene in Jordan and homosexual acts can be punishable by imprisonment.

MENYA Illegal: There is harsh punishment for anyone caught in homosexual activity. Prison sentences can be as long as 14 years for a single act. There is no discussion of homosexuality or any mention of it in books, television, or any other media source.

KUWAIT Illegal: Little is known about the punishment for homosexual sex in Kuwait. Gay sex is considered unnatural

LEBANON Illegal

LIBYA Illegal: Gay sex is punishable by up to 5 years in prison. Libya is a closet society. Gay groups cannot exist legally. No HIV+ people are allowed into the country.

LITHUANIA Legal

LUXEMBOURG Legal: The age of consent for homosexuals is 18 and 14 for heterosexuals. The small gay scene is found in the country's capital of the same name.

MADAGASCAR Legal.

MALTA Legal: The age of consent is 18. Pornography is illegal and prohibited from entering the country.

MEXICO Legal: Although there are no existing laws against homosexuals in Mexico, there is proposed legislation to create anti – gay policies. Gay political groups are growing in the country at the same time putting these proposed discriminatory laws in jeopardy.

MONGOLIA Legal: Most gays are closeted in Mongolia because it is considered taboo. Recent democratic changes are bringing hope for a more liberal future for this country.

MOROCCO Illegal: An extremely hostile place for gays. Tourists are warned to be very discreet and avoid any contact with prostitutes. Agadir and Marrakesch are not places for homosexuals to visit.

MOZAMBIQUE Illegal: No gay scene exists and homosexual acts are punishable by up to 3 years in prison.

METHERLANDS Legal: One of the most liberal countries in the world for homosexuals, The Netherlands age of consent is 16 and has laws for registered partners. This is not the same as marriage but it is legally binding. Violators of anti-discrimination laws are subject to imprisonment. [See story, page 38.]

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Caribbean contingent: A group of flag-waving Caribbean lesbians and gays struts down 59th Street

Between a Rock and a Hard Place:

The Politics of AIDS Care in the Virgin Islands

by Bill Wuepper

t. Thomas is one of three little American Virgin Islands, famous the world over for a laid back attitude and copious quantities of rum.
What is not so famous about St.
Thomas, however, is its law that makes sodomy punishable by 20 years imprisonment - but in this place where the church believes tops are still redeemable real men, and only bottoms are really gay in

and only obtains are learly gay in the eyes of most local men, the law applies only to the bottom.

A double life is the norm in the Virgin Islands – or as it is more commonly called, the "American Paradise." In heterosexual society

children born out of wedlock are the majority, and marriage is mostly used as a form of land management. Gay society, mirroring the straight side on this island, as it does most places, reproduces this double stan-dard and adds some queer trap-pings: the language ("goin" on wit boy-dem" and "woman-woman"),

the nude beaches, and the fabulous

Men with beards

Men with beards
However, in contrast to gay capitals like San Francisco, fundraisers
like the first-ever AIDS benefit in
the West Indies, back in 1991, must
wear the cloak of invisibility. When
I arrived at the mountain-top home
of an eccentric Rockefeller relative (he was exiled to this island because of his taste for "boy-dem") I promptly found myself surrounded by the gay elite – mostly white men, over the age of 40, wealthy, and most of them still in the closet. But even there, at a fundraiser, at

the home of one of their own, the gay men had female dates with whom to dance, sit, and gossip. The only clue to a gay presence was an overwhelming sense of secrecy and furtive glances exchanged between men and men, women and women. When a male friend of mine and I began dancing, we became the cen-ter of attention. Two men dancing and touching ... we must be the "real" homosexuals.

Urged by my friend, I took off my shirt on the makeshift poolside dance floor, a gesture that was greeted with audible gasps from onlookers. Unfortunately, it wasn't my masculine physique that caused the hyperventilation: it was my dan-

gling nipple ring that made people stare and avert my gaze. Although this party did have its advantages, which included the governor showing up, I kept think-ing about the majority of the gay population on St. Thomas, which subsists in a crowded slum in the center of the capital city, Savan. Besides poverty, their ebony skin, and the highest AIDS infection rate in the Caribbean (outside Haiti), they had little in common with the group on the mountain, and even less reason to throw a party.

less reason to throw a party.

Nevertheless, the parties do go
on. That first-ever AIDS benefit
was a smashing success that raised
nearly \$25,000 for the establishment of a Virgin Islands AIDS hospice, at a location to be determined.
I wonder, though, who the hospice
will serve? ▼

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PAGE 54-BAY AREA REPORTER-June 15, 1995

NEW ZEALAND Legal: The consenting age in New Zealand is 16. Acceptance for gays is widening and there are gay bars and clubs in every major city.

NICARACIJA Illegal: The act of sodomy is punishable by up to 8 years in prison. Those who work with children or young adults, such as social workers or teachers can be sentenced up to 20 years in prison. The gay and lesbian movement has been severely threatened in this country by laws signed in 1992 by Nicaraguan president Violeta Chamorro.

NICERIA Illegal: Although homosexual acts are illegal and punishable by up to 14 years in prison, these laws are seldom enforced. [See story, page 52.]

NORWAY Legal: Homosexuals have the same rights as heterosexuals and the age of consent is 16. A very pro - gay atmosphere where few gays stay in the closet. In this gay - friendly country, it is common to have mainly mixed meeting places with gays and straights.

PAKISTAN Illegal: Homosexual acts are punishable by up to lifetime prison terms. 100 lashes used to be part of the offender's sentence. Affectionate behavior among men is common and somewhat homoerotic behavior is allowed between younger, single men if not seen in public. This practice is frowned upon but not usually punished.

PANAMA Legal: Homosexual acts are not mentioned in any existing laws.

to 20 in prison. The Catholic Church creates a generally hostile attitude for gays in Peru.

PHILIPPINES Legal: The age of consent is 18. Philippine military does not allow gays to join.

POLAND Legal: The age of consent in Poland is 15. Again, the Catholic Church has made a great effort to deny homosexuals equal rights in this country and has been successful to a large degree.

PORTUGAL Legal: Homosexuality in Portugal has become more tolerable recently and even the church's policies have been the topic of heated debates

ROMANIA Illegal: Homosexual acts are punishable by up to 5 years in prison. There is no hope in the near future for any kind of gay liberation laws.

SINGAPORE Illegal: Homosexual acts punishable by 2 years to life imprisonment. [See story, page 46.]

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PAGE 56-BAY AREA REPORTER-June 15, 1995

A WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS



Hot spot; Havana's Yara Cinema is a favorite meeting place for gays

Budget Gringostroika:

Hanging with the Homies in a Havana Hood

by Wendell Ricketts

Si no es pato, por lo menos sabe dónde está la laguna. He may not be a duck, but he sure knows where the pond is.

- Cuban saying about closeted gays

l Teatro Yara, across the street from La Habana Libre Hotel, resembles the once-pop-Habana Libre Hotel, resembles the once-popular movie house in any slightly neglected urban neighborhood: The letters on the marque hang at precarious angles; there's an air of dissolution about the place that makes you suspect the seats inside have already lost most of their stuffing. But the Yara Theatre – or, at least, the low cement wall that fronts it for most of an entire block at the corner of 23rd and "L." just south of the Malecón – is as close to a Castro Street or a West Hollwwood as Havana. Cuba Castro Street or a West Hollywood as Havana, Cuba

gets.

Even on a Monday night, the corner is crowded with Even on a Monday night, the corner is crowded with men, most of them young, many of them prostitutes. Everyone seems to know everyone else. The mood is jovial; there's a lot of horseplay and rude joking. Every half-hour or so, someone comes along with a few bottles of rum and a six-pack of warm Coke for sale. You can haggle over the price or, if you've got American dollars, you can make your purchases at the gift shop in the Habana Libre; Cubans, however, are not allowed inside. But if doesn't really mater if you've got money if someone Habana Libre; Cubans, however, are not allowed inside. But it doesn't really matter if you've got money. If someone has rum, pretty much everyone has rum. It's one of the rewards of hanging out with guys who grew up in a socialist environment: No matter what they think about Cuban politics as adults, they genuinely believe in sharing.

I would never have found the Yara Theatre – and, with it, a window into gay life in Cuba – if it weren't for Ernest Hemingway. But perhaps I'd better back up. Of all the ways a U.S. citizen can travel to Cuba (most of them illegal not because of Cuban laws but because of our government's 35-year-old trade embargo and travel ban), the most common is to join a tour arranged by a solidarity organization such as Global Exchange or

Queers for Cuba.

One of the oldest of these is the Venceremos Brigade, One of the oldest of these is the Venceremos Brigade, an avowedly political group dedicated to challenging the embargo and to bringing material aid to Cuba (medical and school supplies, for example, as well as the manual labor of brigadistas on sugar-cane and tobacco plantations). When it comes to queer people, the Venceremos Brigade's history mirrors that of the Cuban government itself. Up until fairly recently, that is, open (or suspected) gay men and lesbians weren't accepted into VB contingents because they were considered "counter-revolutionary." But in 1994, when I applied, the Bay Area VB was conducting something like a gay-outreach effort. Flawed as it was, you've got to start somewhere.

A roundabout journey

By the time our group of 150 Venceremocistas had made the second of three stops on our roundabout flight to Cuba (there's no direct route from the United States; American travelers must enter Cuba via Mexico, Canada, or even Europe), I was convinced that a midwesterner named Walter was the only other "out" gay man. Several women, in addition, had dyke potential.

During our second day at the VB's base camp outside Havana, however, closets popped open when a Cuban reporter came looking for gay people to interview for an article on gay life in the states. Venceremos Brigade leaders managed to scare up two guys (me and Walter) and two women (I'd scored .500 on the gaydar) to "represent" the contingent for the interview, but it quickly became clear that neither the VB nor our Cuban sponsor, ICAP (Cuban Institute for Friendship Among the ICAP (Cuban Institute for Friendship Among the Peoples), wanted to have a whole lot more to do with "the gay agenda." We were going to have to find gay

"the gay agenda. We were going to have to him gay. Cuba on our own.

And that's where Ernest Hemingway comes in. In 1940, Hemingway bought La Finca Vigfa ("The Watchtower Ranch," more or less), an estate outside Havana where he lived for two decades. Hemingway, or so the stories go, whiled away more than a few of his evenings in two-fisted drinking at La Floridita and La

SOUTH AFRICA Despite an Interim Constitution that bans anti-gay discrimination, homosexual acts are still punishable. President Nelson Mandela has stated that any discrimination, including anti-gay laws, is contradictory to the idea of freedom in the new South Africa. Attempts are being made to repeal antigay laws. [See story, page 50.]

SPAIN Legal: The age of consent in Spain is 16 but anyone under 18 may cause a tourist trouble with the police anyway. The country's gay communicias are outspoken and communicate freely. Madrid and Barcelona are the best places to visit in Europe's premier tourist attraction.

SWEDEN Legal: Sweden's age of con-

sent is 15. Sweden passed the cohabitation law but this is not equal to a marriage certificate. People with HIV have to report their positive status to officials. Sweden is a very liberal country but its gay communities tend to be smaller, even in larger cities. There are no restrictions for military service.

TANZANIA Illegal: Punishment for homo-sexual activity can be a maximum of 14 years in prison but these laws are rarely enforced. The general attitude towards gays is very negative.

THALAND Legal: Avoid flamboyant behavior. Even in this very liberal, much loved tourist country, there are backlashes against openly gay people. Male prosessions of the prosession of the pro

titution is legal. The Thai government is a leader in the fight against AIDS. AIDS research and education are of the utmost importance in Thailand. Avoid contact with anyone under 18. [See story, page 42.]

TURKEY Legal: Affection between men is common as well as sex. Masculine conduct must be maintained in this macho society. It is more a bisexual atmosphere in Turkey and any purely gay man would be intimidated by the police and society. The age of consent is 15.

UKRAINE Legal: The majority of the country is against homosexuality and considers it an offense but it is not punishable by the law. The age of consent



Some local beauties soak up the sun on a street corner in Old Havana.

Boteguita del Medio, a couple of saloons (in the best sense of the word) in Old Havana. Both bars still exist, and La Boteguita in particular is a popular stop both for tourists and for Cubans who want to interact with tourists. In other words. ... Well, you know.

The atmosphere at La Boteguita is decidedly eclectic. German students in ratty T-shirts stand shoulder-to-shoulder with Spanish businessmen in three-piece suits. Fly-specked pictures (Errol Flynn, Mikhail Gorbachev) cover the walls; a sketch of Salvador Allende hangs above the door. There's even a hand-painted sign behind the bar with what purports to be Hemingway's personal endorsement: "My mojitos [a drink made with light rum and fresh mint] from La Boteguita and my daiquiris from La Floridita." But La Boteguita is small and, with everyone jammed in so close together, as they were on the rain-sodden aftermoon that Walter and I spent there, conversations are bound to get started. Before long, Walter knew a lot about a third-year medical student name Tito. And Tito knew all about a place called El Teatro Year. name Tito. And Tito knew all about a place called El

The best fiestas are lesbian

The best fiestas are lesbian

A few days passed before Walter and I could make our escape from the Venceremos Brigade – literally an escape, because the group's leaders wouldn't permit an overnight stay in Havana. Our only option was to 'miss'' the bus back to camp one afternoon after a meeting at ICAP. We found Tito again at La Boteguita, paid for a cheap room in a hotel a short distance from La Habana Libre, and spent the hours until nightfall wandering Old Havana, where the crumbling, colonial facades, ample plazas, and cobblestone streets could have been lifted from neighborhoods in Catalaña or from the innumerable Spanish and Italian towns that never fully recovered after the Second World War. If there's beauty in the softened edges that come with age and a complicated history, Old Havana is steeped in it.

When we got to the Yara, there were already some

when we got to the Yara, there were already some two dozen guys gathered at the corner. "Yep," said

Walter, surveying the crowd, "these are definitely our people." Tito had to go home to study; so Walter and I found a place for ourselves along the wall and waited to see what would happen. It was not quite eight o'clock.

Five hours later we were still sitting on the wall, giddy with rum and laughter, carrying on at least ten different conversations at once, trading addresses, snapping photos, and wondering how we had found the companionable connection with other gay men that was so, elusive at home. Part of the answer, of course, is that we were engaged in exactly the sort of "networking" for which the Yara Theatre street-scene evolved.

There are no bars, political groups, or youth clubs for

which the Yara Theatre street-scene evolved.

There are no bars, political groups, or youth clubs for gay men or lesbians in Havana – although hetero gathering places are everywhere. Not unlike American gay life in the '50s and '60s, then, social and sexual contacts are made largely at private house parties. But the situation is complicated by the fact that there are no telephones – or, at least, there's no reliable phone service. On weekends, as many as a hundred gay men stop by the Yara to find out where the casas particulares are and to wrangle an invitation if they don't already know the hosts. (It usually costs ten pesos to enter.) ly costs ten pesos to enter.)

invitation if they don't already know the hosts. (It usually costs ten pesos to enter.)

Lesbians don't hang out much at the Yara, but they do attend house parties. A couple of the best fiestas, we were told, are hosted by lesbian couples. But lesbians in Cuba are less visible than gay men; and gay men, except for the Yara, are pretty invisible themselves.

It wasn't until well after 2:30 that a trio of cops came by and rousted our entire group from the Yara. They did their best to be intimidating, shouting and asking insulting questions, but they weren't violent. According to the guys in the group, that was probably because we were Americans. The cops came around every night, they said, and someone almost always got roughed up. As we headed back to our hotel, a few of the guys we'd met volunteered to escort us. Danilo suggested a shortcut through a wide park, and we handed the last of a bottle of rum back and forth among us as we walked. We were quiet at first, then Danilo started to chuckle. "You know," he said, "I love this country like crazy. But sometimes it can be fucking unbearable." ▼

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES Illegal: Anyone who even states that he or she is gay is subject to 2 years in prison. This is another country where homosex-ual activity is considered normal for men if it is not a lifestyle and the men main-tain wives or girlfriends.

united kinkbow Legal: The age of consent for gays is 18 and 16 for straights. Gay sex with more than one man is not legal, as well as gay sex with soldiers or between soldiers, and public displays. Clause 28 of the penal code states that no references can be made in schools or universities that promotes homosexuality in any way and no promotional publications are allowed. Homosexuals are denied many of the basic nights of the majority. People with HIV

are still allowed to enter

are still allowed to enter.

UNITED STATES Legal: No other country in the world enjoys the freedoms that are provided in America for homosexuals the steen though in rural portions of the nation there is still quite a stigma attached to being gay, no other part of the world provides such a diverse atmosphere and landscape for gays to live. President Bill Clinton has helped to bring a more tolerable view of gays in recent years but his wavering promises have also helped to hinder progress in areas such as the military. The American Constitution provides that each state can pass laws that agree with the needs of its citizens. This is why homosexual rights vary from state to state. Many states such as Alabama, Oklahoma, and

Virginia have laws against sodomy (some only pertaining to gays: Nevada, Texas). These laws are rarely enforced on a wide scale. [See story, page 60.]

VENEZUELA Legal: There are no legal restrictions but administrative discrimination occurs regularly.

YUGOSLAVIA Legal: Montenegro has an age of consent for gays at 14 but in Serbia homosexuality is illegal. [See story, page 39.]

ZAIRE Illegal: Homosexuality is considered a crime against the "family life" and is punishable by up to 5 years in prison.

ZIMBABWE Legal: Consenting age is

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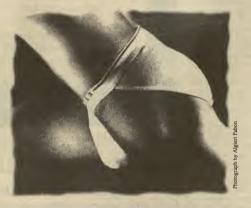




Water sports: Athletes run for the waves at the start of the triathlon at the 1990 Gay Games in Vancouver

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Canada, O (Progressive) Canada

hy Pat Johnson

anadian lawyers and gay rights activists are still trying to determine the meaning of a May 25 Supreme Court decision that gays and lesbians are protected against discrimination by the constitution. It was the first time that the protection had been affirmed at the highest judicial level. However, the court offered the seeminely contract. court offered the seemingly contra

court offered the seemingly contra-dictory advice that marriage is an exclusively heterosexual domain. On the same day, a separate court overturned a long-standing law prohibiting consensual anal sex for youths under the age of 18. According to one of the judges involved in the decision, the law "arbitrarily disadvantages gay men by denying them until they are 18 a choice available at the age of 14 to those who are not gav."

those who are not gay."

A week earlier, still another court awarded four lesbians the

right to adopt their respective spouses children.

Gay rights issues in Canada have frequently been fought out in the courts since a charter of rights was entrenched in the constitution ten years ago. In 1992 a liberal interpretation of the constitutional guarantees prohibited discrimina-tion against homosexuals in all areas of federal jurisdiction, including the military

Politicians, wary of expressing controversial views, have frequent-ly waited for judges to make the hard choices on issues such as these. This may become more diffi-cult as gays and lesbians increase demands for recognition of spousal

Provincial governments ... and not

In a divisive public debate last fall, the provincial government of Ontario, Canada's most populous province, failed to pass legislation that would have recognized samesex spousal relationships and paved the way for equality in adoption and all other areas. Outraged gay activists have dogged political lead-ers throughout their recent election

campaign.

The provincial government of Alberta is appealing a court decision that declared that gays and lesbians are covered by human rights

Conversely, the provincial government of British Columbia recently made changes to the adoption procedures which allow single people, gay or straight, to adopt. Little fanfare accompanied the changes. The changes do not, however allow gay counties to adopt

Little fantare accompanied the changes. The changes do not, however, allow gay couples to adopt.

While almost every province and territory in the country has passed legislation protecting gays and lesbians against discrimination, the federal government has not yet done so. The Minister of Justice Allan Rock promised gays and lesbians that he would introduce such protections to parliament by the end of last year. His failure to do so has incited rumours of division within the governing Liberal party.

Divisions in another political party may be unearthed when the socialist New Democratic party chooses its new leader in October. Openly-gay member of parliament Svend Robinson is probably the front-running candidate. The 43-

year-old politician from Vancouver has been in parliament since 1979 and came out in 1987. Already well known, if controversial, across the country, his victory would solidify his position as the country's most

his position as the country's most prominent gay activist. It would also make him a candidate for prime minister in 1997. Canada's gay community is still most visible in pockets of large urban centres, but active organiza-tions are popping up in surprising rural locations as well.

City life

Toronto is Canada's largest city and has a correspondingly significant gay community. Formerly derided by other Canadians as bland, "Toronto the good" has become the lively centre of Canadian commerce, arts, publishing and media. Named the world's most multicultural city by recent study, the active and vibrant gay community is a very visible component.

nent.
Canada's second city, Montreal, evokes for travelers scenes of terrasse bars and top restaurants, European architecture and joie de vivre. Gay travelers are rarely disappointed as the famed Canadian reserve gives way in Montreal to an abandon more reminiscent of New Orleans than of English-speaking Orleans than of English-speaking Canada. Language barriers and political instability rarely dampen a short visit. While Quebecois are generally perceived as the most liberal of Canadians, Montreal seems to select its police officers from a source far removed from this cosmopolitanism. Strained police relations with gays and lesbians, as well as with other minority groups, are renowned.

Vancouver's gay community

are renowned.

Vancouver's gay community was invigorated by hosting the Gay Games in 1990, and remains one of the country's premier destinations for gays and lesbians. The clubs and gay neighbourhood are centred in one of the most desirable areas of the picturesque city. Gay the picturesque city. Gay Vancouverites enjoy a comfortable relationship with the relatively lib-eral citizens and leaders of the city. Of the 27 elected city officials, four are openly gay or lesbian.

Calgary, Winnipeg, Ottawa, Quebec City and Halifax also offer substantial resources to gays and lesbians. While gay-bashing and other crime is by no means unknown, Canadian cities are all extremely safe by American stan-

While the Catholic church remains the largest in Canada, and some fundamentalist Protestant sects are gaining strength in Canada as they are in the U.S., there has been a significant liberalization in religious outlooks on homosexuali-ty. The United Church, the coun-try's largest Protestant denomination, has begun ordaining out gays and lesbians. It has also developed a liturgical ceremony for homosexual

Public acceptance in some cases lags behind the progressive demonstrations of judges, churches, and politicians. But in Canada, as in the United States, most people have come to realize that homosexuals are not going away. Controversy arises around how to integrate this reality with entrenched traditions and values. ▼

Photos: RAM Studios 432 Castro Street, San Francisco

The Anti-Gay Movement in America:

'Red Flags Everywhere'

he following list, compiled by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, represents a sampling of initiatives, legislation, and other measures currently sponsored in various states around the nation. NGLTF's Fight the Right project, headed by Robert Bray, tracks and helps local activists organize against these measure.

"In our experience," says Bray,
"key radical right players are the
Christian Coalition (which controls the Republican Parties of numerous which in turn control the

majority of votes in state legisla-tures), Coloradans for Family Values, Oregon Citizens Alliance, Idaho Citizens Alliance, Focus on the Family, and the Traditional Values Coalition, among others. "In some of these attacks there is

a clear connection between national and local radical right groups and their support of the measures," according to Bray. "In other cases the connection is less clear politi-cally but fairly direct in terms of radical right rhetoric and similarity of the measures within the broader agenda of the radical right."



Gay rights activists demonstrated outside the Oregon Capitol in 1993 while a House Judiciary Committee debated which gay rights bill to send to the House floor.

Bray told the Bay Area Reporter he keeps an American map in his office with red push-pins to indicate areas of anti-gay political activities. "Lately," he said, "well, have you seen the movie Outbreak? You know how it shows the virus spreading? That's what my map looks like. There are red flags everywhere."

Colorado

▼ Colorado's anti-gay Amendment 2 was the first successful anti-gay ballot measure in the country, in

1992, and is now before the U.S. Supreme Court. The measure would

Supreme Court. The measure would overturn any existing laws than ban discrimination based on sexual orientation and prohibit such laws in the future.

After the state supreme court ruled Amendment 2 unconstitutional, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear it this September. The Supreme Court ruling, either posi-tive or negative, will have profound implications in terms of majority rule over minorities, civil rights laws, states rights, and other areas for both gay and non-gay citizens. This week the Clinton administration said the Justice Department will not file a brief in the case.

California

California

▼ In January, Attorney General
Dan Lungren signed on to a brief to
the U.S. Supreme Court with six
other states in support of
Amendment 2. (See Colorado,
above.) Lungren claims his actions
were not motivated by anti-gay
prejudice, but by his support of
"states rights." One week later,
GOP presidential candidate Bob
Dole floated his name as a possible
vice president nominee on a vice president nominee on a fundraising trip to California.

▼ Shortly before kicking off his

own presidential campaign, Governor Pete Wilson rescinded an order that had gone into effect January 1, 1995 allowing unmarried couples to adopt children in California. The policy was intro-duced by the California Department of Social Services, and would have placed foster children in the homes of qualified couples, regardless of their marital status.

Oregon

▼ Although last year's anti-gay Initiative 13, was defeated (follow-ing the defeat of Initiative 9 in 1992), the Oregon Citizens Alliance is proposing a slew of anti-gay bal-lot initiatives for 1996 in the hopes

lot initiatives for 1996 in the hopes of getting at least one of the ballot. More than 30 towns and counties have already passed OCA-sponsored local anti-gay measures. ▼ Meanwhile, a conservative Democratic legislator is attempting to introduce a bill that would ban single women from using artificial insemination, an overt attack on lesbian parenting. bian parenting.

Washington

Two anti-gay initiatives are proposed for the 1996 ballot:

posed for the 1990 ballot:

**Initiative 166 would, among other things, censor information regarding homosexuality in all public schools, including by counselors; bar any claims of discrimination based on sexual orientation; and forbid recognition of gay marriage. It was sponsored by the Washington Committee for Equal Rights not Special Rights and is nearly identical to last year's initiative 603 which did not get on the ballot.

Initiative 167 is an anti-adoption receives filed by the Civings.

measure filed by the Citizens Alliance of Washington. It would prohibit gay/lesbian/bisexual couples from adopting, and would affect unmarried non-gay couples

Two anti-gay pieces of legisla-tion are currently before the state

■ Bill 226 would prevent domestic partnerships for gay/lesbian cou-

ples.
▼ Bill 227 would prevent gay marriages and recognition of gay marriages from other states.

▼ The Idaho Citizens Alliance has vowed to avenge its loss last year over the defeated anti-gay initiative, Proposition 1. Kelly Walton, ICA chair, has announced two ICA measures for the next elections, one a such selection of the lost of the lo school voucher-type initiative and the other a reworded anti-gay initia-

tive.

▼ In January the state attorney general signed on to a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court with six other states in support of Colorado's anti-gay

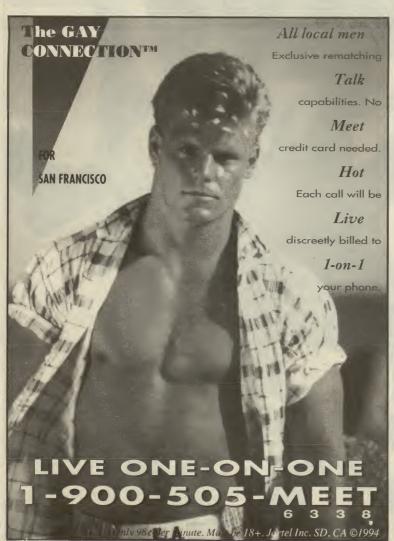
The state assembly has passed, and the governor signed, a measure (HB366) banning the recognition of gay marriages. The architect of the measure and its chief promoter is Brigham Young University law pro-fessor Lynn Wardle, who was also behind Utah's severe anti-abortion measure.

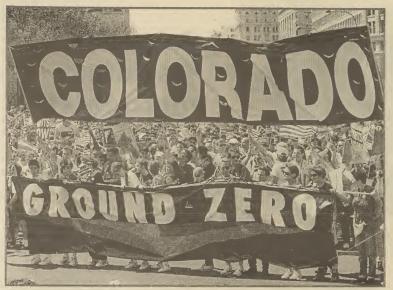
Montana

▼ A national uproar was sparked by a bill in Montana that would have required homosexuals convicted under the state felony sodomy law to register for life with local law enforcement agencies. The bill's sponsor, GOP Senator Al Bishop, said gay sex was "even worse than a violent sexual act," such as rape and child abuse. The bill was subse-quently defeated. The bill's sponsors were quoted as saying a local Christian Coalition chapter worked with them on the measure.

South Dakota

▼ In January the state attorney general signed on to a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court with six other states in support of Colorado's antigay Amendment 2.





Rocky Mountain High: Colorado's Ground Zero, formed in opposition to that state's Amendment 2 marches on our nation's capital during the historic 1993 March on Washington.

Nebraska
▼ Far right State Senator Kate
Witek withdrew her state assembly
bill to institute a ban on gay and lesbian adoption – but only after Mary
Dean Harvey, director of the State
Department of Social Services,
instituted a virtually identical ban.
▼ In January the state attorney
general signed on to a brief to the
U.S. Supreme Court with six other
states in support of Colorado's antigay Amendment 2.

Iowa
▼ Last January the Des Moines school board dropped a proposal for the "infusion of sexual orientation issues" in public school curriculum materials following antigay protests from religious right leaders, including Bill Horn (producer of the virulently anti-gay video, The Gay Agenda) and right wing radio talk show host Jan Mickelson. School board member Jonathan Wilson made national headlines when he came out as gay during local hearings on the measure.

▼ Since then, right wing state legislators attempted to pass an amendment (Senate File 266) to the amendment (Senate File 266) to the state's appropriations bill that would have banned state funds from being used to "promote or encourage homosexuality" in state colleges and universities. The "no promo homo" measure is similar to those offered by U.S. Senator Jesse Helms

Missouri

▼ Local radical right officials have kicked off Project Spotlight, a statewide campaign of intimidation and "gay baiting" designed to target gay-positive politicians for defeat.

▼ In November 1993, an anti-gay ▼ In November 1993, an anti-gay city charter amendment in Cincinnati was passed by popular vote. A U.S. Federal Court upheld the measure in May following challenges to its constitutionality in state court. Robert Bork and Ed Meese had joined the legal team supporting the initiative. Issue 3 repeals sections of a human rights ordinance that provides protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation.

▼ Not waiting for the court to rule, the Cincinnati City Council voted to overturn the local gay rights ordinance anyway.

Maine

Concerned Maine Families, a Radical Right group led by Carolyn Cosby, placed an initiative on the 1995 ballot to prevent the state from ever adding sexual orientation or

other new minority classifications to the list of groups protected from discrimination. It would also repeal any local gay rights ordinance, primarily in Portland. Maine Won't Discriminate, with more than 20 chapters around the state has chapters around the state, has formed to battle the Radical Right's

South Carolina

▼ In January the state attorney general signed on to a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court with six other states in support of Colorado's antigay Amendment 2.

Virginia

In January the state attorney general signed on to a brief to the U.S. Supreme Court with six other states in support of Colorado's antigay Amendment 2.

Florida
▼ Two anti-gay initiatives (both titled Amendment 1) were passed in November 1994 by voters in Alachua County. The measures overturn existing gay rights laws in Gainesville and the surrounding county. The amendments were sponsored by Concerned Citizens of Alachua County, a local radical right group with strong ties to the American Family Association.
▼ The Florida chapter of the AFA was also the chief sponsor of a Tampa anti-gay amendment, which was blocked from going on the bal-

was blocked from going on the ballot last March.

A cause for optimism: in

January, West Palm Beach voters
defeated a religious right-backed
ballot initiative to repeal the local gay rights ordinance

Louisiana

Two bills sponsored by right wing state legislators have been introduced:

wing state legislators have occilintroduced:

▼ House Bill 290, "Justifiable Murder of AIDS Carriers," makes homicide justifiable when an individual kills because he or she fears that an "attacker" has HIV and it is reasonably assumed that the "carrier" is about to inflict it upon the individual. Such a bill would provide an instant defense for a gay-related murder charge.

▼ Senate Bill 1231, "The Mandatory Minimums for Sex Crimes Bill," would sentence adults found guilt of a private, consensual act to at least one year in prison.

Oklahoma

▼ House Joint Resolution 1018
would submit a state constitutional
amendment to a state-wide referendum. It would prohibit any state,
county or municipal government
from adoption or enforcement of

laws, policies or regulations "where-by homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual by homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices or relationships shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of or entitle any person ... to have minority status, quota preferences, protected status or claim of discrimination." It also prohibits "teaching of homosexuality... as natural lifestyles;" and prohibits advocation and feotre process. hibits adoption and foster care by gays/lesbians and bisexuals.

Texas

▼ Doug Hellman, Chairman of the

Movin' Offshore:

The Best **News May Lie** In Hawai'i

n 1991, three couples in Hawai'i — two lesbians and one gay — brought a lawsuit challenging the state's denial of their applications for marriage licenses. In May 1993 the Hawai'i Supreme Court ruled that the denial violates constitutional guarantee of equal protection (Baehr v. Lewin). The Hawai'i Supreme Court sent the case back to the trial court, directing it to examine the state's marriage discrimination under "strict scrutiny." If the state fails to demonstrate a "compelling" interest for discriminating, it must grant marriage licenses to same-sex couples. A state supreme court ruling is expected late this year or early next year. The radical right, particularly the arch-conservative Rutherford Institute legal group, has targeted gay marriage both in Hawai'i and nationwide as a key opposition issue. ▼

Dallas Christian Coalition, along with Cathie Adams, president of the Texas Eagle Forum, are two leaders of a campaign in Dallas to repeal a new city council policy that protects city employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

based on sexual orientation.

Meanwhile, attempts to move a gay-inclusive hate crimes bills through the state legislature have been challenged by radical rights lobbyists. The Texas assembly is Republican controlled, and the state GOP is Christian Coalition controlled.

Mississippi

▼ Right wing state legislators have introduced a ban on funding of school programs that teach about homosexuality. Although Mississippi currently has no such education program, Senator Alan Nunnelee (R-Tupelo, home of the American Family Association) said he fears school leaders may try to start one. Nunnelee said schools in other states have used books like Heather Has Two Mommies to promote homosexuality. ▼



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We Are Everywhere Queers wave their countries' placards during closing ceremonies at last summer's Gay Games

Tommi

Continued from page 34

thing horrible and bland.

In closing, what would you say "World Without Borders" means for the queer community?

I feel strongly that queers need retain our cultural identity. We need not assimilate.

need not assimilate.

As queers we need to hold on to our backgrounds and be able to keep those ties with our families. Family is so important. We create families with our friends, but I'm realizing that for me family is part of my culture. I think what happens are that we extrance ourselves from a is that we estrange ourselves from our families because we get full of

this idea of gay pride, which obvi-ously I believe in, but the way it's represented in this country is very much a white Anglo concept, and

much a white Anglo concept, and it's very foreign to many of the cultures that we come from. I think Anglo culture's been saturated with the idea of gay pride long enough to acknowledge it.

The rest of us have had to struggle with cultural stuff, and be sensitive to that cultural stuff that's happening around this identity we suddenly bring home. I bring home this identity as a queer activist to my family and it's so orning nome this identity as a queer activist to my family and it's so foreign to them, so outside their realm of experience, and why should it be? For most ethnic communities it's that way. We have to go back to our communities, reinterpret and mold it so that it works within our cultures. It's seen my within our cultures. I've seen my Asian and Latino friends do it. So

I'm hoping that things are going to get better in this area of queer identity.

allegiance is to bringing people together by recognizing that there is diversity within our queer community. I think it's our responsibility as a community to do these things. Right now it's my life mis-sion to be subverting the concepts around race, gender, everything. If we don't do it I don't know who

we don't do it I don't know who else is going to.

We're in a position to really challenge the world on how it defines itself, and that's why the World Without Borders is so important: because I think that when people see that contingent coming down Market Street – all of our faces and hair behind that queer banner – that's going to say "We are the world, aren't we?

"We are everywhere." ▼

"We are everywhere." ▼

Jamaica: **Paradise Postponed**

by Martin Rodman

amaica is one of the most beautiful islands in the West Indies. With its endless white beaches, windswept mountains, and crystal clear water, it's anybody's vacation clear water, it's anybody's vacation paradise. These, however, are only the tourist images of Jamaica. Underneath the pretty postcard pic-tures lies a country of palpable despair. Hundreds of years of colo-nialism, economic and environmen-tal rape, and the vagaries of the tourist industry have made life difficult for the people who call Jamaica

The populace of this small Caribbean island nation, composed largely of people of African and Indian descent, is desperately strug-gling to build an economic base that will permit social and economic independence and allow for a pride of place in the world beyond the disdainful label "tourist destina-

tion."

But poverty, lack of education, and a minuscule GNP have kept Jamaica from expanding its struggling economy into a robust international marketplace. Tourism is still the mainstay of the Jamaican economy. Coffee, tobacco, and sugar play smaller but important roles.

Because much of Jamaica remains undeveloped (outside of Kingston and tourist resorts like Negril, Montego Bay, and Ocho Rios) and its populace uneducated,

Rios) and its populace uneducated, it is hardly a hospitable place for America's liberated homosexual masses, whose continued existence as a conspicuous social organism largely depends upon the prolifera-tion of educated classes bent on being socially tolerant and under-standing cultural differences.

Ten years possible, but not probable

But that picture of cozy togeth-erness, so pleasing to liberty-valu-ing Americans, is not Jamaica. ing Americans, is not Jamaica. Homosexuality in this land of 2.5 million people remains illegal. In fact, on the books, same-sex relations are punishable by imprisonment for up to ten years. In reality, these rather harsh punishments are rarely enforced by authorities, but the spirit of the letter dominates the least Striden entil bengeveral en land. Strident anti-homosexual sen-timents are common among Jamaicans, especially in the capital

Jamacans, especially in the capital city, Kingston.

Attacks on queers here are not uncommon, and for the typical white gay man who thinks he's found a paradise in which to exercise his fetish for "exotic" people, they should be warned before volleying sexual overtures to unknown leving sexual overtures to unknown

they should be warned before volleying sexual overtures to unknown Jamaicans that this behavior could have negative results.

In general, one can glean very quickly from the citizens of Ocho Rios, Kingston, or even Montego Bay a sense that homosexuals live invisible lives in Jamaica, even in large metropolitan areas. There are gay bars in these cities, but their gayness is clandestine, like gay bars in San Francisco and New York in the '40s and '50s. And though gay and lesbian people know how to meet each other in Jamaica, it is not always easy to know the sexual identity of the person with the cocktail sitting next to you.

There are, however, establishments in Kingston where gay life takes on a more discernible, collective presence, an indication that, despite its noticeably homophobic attitudes, a nascent Gay Freedom movement is slowly emerging in Jamaica. Still, it is not smart for gay white tourists (especially men) to trumpet their sexuality in the streets (especially after dark).

trumpet their sexuality in the streets (especially after dark).

As in most other cities around the globe, AIDS is a reality in the globe, AIDS is a reality in Jamaica, though most are reticent to admit that it's a problem. Fortunately, in recent years, AIDS service organizations have popped up throughout the country, along with health clinics and gay youth counselors, who dispense information about safe sex and gay life.

Nigeria

Continued from page 52

of large crowds of men. Looking at these audiences, most Hausa people would say the male viewers have come to check out the women, and that the 'yan daudu are there to act as the women's agents, introducing them to male patrons who desire their sexual company.

What many people don't know, or don't acknowledge, is that some of these men, who are all masculine-identified, are sexall masculine-identified, are sex-ually interested in the 'yan daudu themselves.' Yan daudu call these men "civilians," and often form relationships with them that resemble the boyfriend-girlfriend or patron-mistress relationships that Hausa men establish with

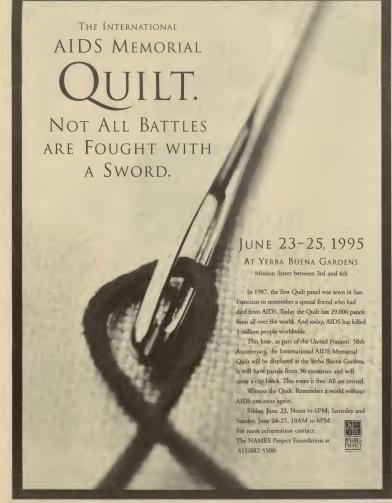
Like female courtesans, 'yan daudu expect their boyfriends to provide them with material gifts, such as money, jewelry, or travel, in exchange for their social and sexual companionship. It is also possible for a 'dan daudu to entice a "civilian" with such gifts, turning the tables on the expected power arrangement whereby the feminine-identified partner is supposed to assume a "passive" role both sexually and economi-

To be a gay man in Kano in no to be a gay man in Kano in no way precludes the possibility of being married to a woman. In fact, my gay Hausa acquaintances were often startled to hear that I never intend to get married. To them, a man can't be considered a responsible adult until he's gotten recred, and had children. Not responsible adult until he's gotten married and had children. Not only "civilians," but also 'yan daudu, who are widely disparaged – even by other gay men for their feminine ways, earn their neighbors' respect by supporting a family.

Although 'yan daudu suffer

porting a family.

Although 'yan daudu suffer considerable ostracism (and sometimes violence), and "civilians" live in fear of exposure, most gay Hausa men are not social revolutionaries. Their wives are secluded, and their children age to arighborhood Islamic. wives are secluded, and their children go to neighborhood Islamic school. While some of my gay friends responded with enthusiasm to accounts of gay political movements in the West, many others considered such things frivolous and irresponsible. Although sexuality had a considerable impact on how they lived their lives, they did not consider it to be as morally important as their relias morally important as their religious beliefs, their cultural traditions, and the economic struggle to survive. ▼



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

PEOPLE AND PERSONALS

VOL. XXV NO. 24 June 15, 1995

Sometimes They Come Back

Peter Litten's 'Heaven's A Drag': Sentimental But Endearing

by Wendell Ricketts

eaven, according to British filmmaker Peter Mackenzie Litten's 1994 release Heaven's A Drag, is not only a drag, it's a place with a rather unusual door policy. No one gets in unless he's been extensively and theatrically mourned by the loved ones he has left behind. They, in turn, get no peace until the dear departed has been wailed over to the satisfaction of some Emotional Review Board in the sky. In other words, it's all about co-dependence.

about co-dependence.

Heaven's A Drag's protagonists are Simon and Mark, each painted – like all the film's characters – in the subtle strokes that come from liberal application of the trowel. Mark is a drag queen with a nightly pubroutine in which he lip-synchs to a song that includes the lyric "queer things are happening to me." This is a hint. In addition to being a plain and slightly pitiable homebody, Mark has AIDS.

Simon, on the other hand, is a big, butch, handsome healthy boy (a television repairman, no less) who just can't keep it in his pants. He and Mark have an "open" relationship (Simon sleeps around while Mark suffers, in other words), and Simon goes to



The boys of Heaven's A Drag

the bar ostensibly to watch Mark's act but actually to cruise. Simon also doesn't believe Mark is really sick – at least, not that sick – and he patronizes him with lines

about thinking positively and taking his vit-

Continued on page 66

The Dark Side of Mr. Hart

Lorenz Hart Biographer Links Composer's Unhappiness to Life in the Closet

by Chad Jones

ost people don't know that Lorenz Hart was a demonized alcoholic and a self-hating homosexual who was tortured by what he perceived to be his dwarfish ugliness. The world knows Larry Hart as the jocular, clever and heartfelt lyricist who, along with composer Richard Rodgers, penned hundreds of classic songs including "Blue Moon," "Where or When" and "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered." While the lives and work of other gay composers such as Noel Coward, Cole Porter and even Stephen Sondheim (who loves to denigrate Hart's work whenever he gets the chance) are celebrated with pride, Hart's accomplishments are often sidestepped in deference to his dark life and too-early death at the age of 48.

He would have been 100 years old on May 2 of this year, and his centenary has been commemorated with tributes both written and performed, many ignoring Hart's homosexuality altogether or making only a passing reference. By far the best way to celebrate the man is through the performance of his

great work, and that is just what San Francisco's 42nd Street Moon is attempting to do with their ambitious Rodgers and Hart and Hammerstein Festival, which began last week at the New Conservatory Theatre with a staged concert version of Rodgers and Hart's A Connecticut Yankee.

Connecticut Yankee.

The show is a good introduction to the composers because it demonstrates the full spectrum of the Rodgers and Hart canon. Originally written and produced in 1927, Yankee introduced what would later become Rodgers and Hart classics, "Thou Swell" and "My Heart Stood Still." Sixteen years and some 30 shows later, after Rodgers had linked up with his second major collaborator, Oscar Hammerstein II, to create Oklahoma, the duo of Rodgers and Hart reunited one last time to write six new songs for a Yankee revival. By this time, Larry Hart was in bad shape. His life of alcoholism and mysterious disappearances had taken their toll, but he managed to craft six good new songs, including his last song, the brilliant and hilarious "To Keep My Love Alive." Two days after the opening of the revival, Hart died at Doctors Hospital.

Continued on page 72



Lorenz Hart photographed in 1939. From the collection



Assumpta Serna in *I, Worst of All,* which plays 6/15 (7 p.m.) at the Castro Theatre.

Lesbian/Gay Film Fest's 'I, The Worst of All'

Top Nun

by Erin Blackwel

, The Worst of All (Yo, La Peor de Todas) is the clunky title of Maria Luisa Bemberg's elegant costume biopic about the 17th-century Mexican genius/poet/nun, Juana Ines de la Cruz. The epithet, which Sister Juana (Assumpta Serna) writes with a quill pen dipped into her bleeding palm, translates her final act of defiance. Appended to the recalcitrant nun's 11th-hour renunciation of her worldly vanities, the phrase epitomizes the double bind of a proud woman tranged by a

recalcitrant nun's 11th-hour renunciation of her worldly vanties, the phrase epitomizes the double bind of a proud woman trapped by a totalitarian, misogynist Church.

De la Cruz is the worst quite simply because she's the best. A prodigy, she enters the convent because as a woman she can't enter a university. She fills her convent cell with scientific instruments and a replica of Orpheus's lyre – gadgets she calls her "children." When not at her telescope or arguing philosophy with the best (male) minds of New Spain, she dashes off some of the most brilliant plays and poems of Spanish literature's Golden Age. Her significant other whose portrait she wears around her neck and to whom she addresses her love poetry – is a woman: the Vicereine of Mexico (Dominique Sanda), a powerful political ally.

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OPERA DE LYON Thru June 27 WORLD PREMIERE RECORDING

Meet Kent Nagano,

the Grammy Award-Winning conductor of the Opera de Lyon, at Tower Records Classical Annex at Columbus and Bay St. between 5:30 and 6:30 pm on Sunday, June 18 (following his performance of

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L/G FILM FESTIVAL

'Heaven's A Drag'

Continued from cover

Mark puts up with all this because he is one who Stands By His Man. And so, while Simon is out until all hours of the morning sewing his oats, Mark plops himself on the sofa, plugs a documentary about the Names Project Quilt into the VCR, weeps tastefully, and takes up a little sewing of his own. Only what Mark is sewing is his Quilt section. (You certainly didn't think Simon was going to do it, did you?)

And as if that were not enough self-torture. Mark

was going to do it, did you?)
And, as if that were not enough self-torture, Mark
cannot restrain himself from asking, when Simon finally comes home and crawls into bed, "Was he good? As
in 'better than us?"
All joint land.

All right. Let's cut to the chase. So Mark dies (as he All right. Let's cut to the chase. So Mark dies (as he must for the plot to gather any steam at all), and Simon, in a frenzy, removes from their apartment every single photograph, bibelot, and article of clothing that reminds him of Mark. When he's done, their home bears no trace that Mark once lived there – except for the fact that Mark has begun leaving ghostly messages on the answering machine. Soon enough, Mark is back in the flesh – well, the ectoplasm, anyway – and he has to stay because he can't get into heaven until Simon completes all Five Stages of Grief. Or something like that. Besides, heaven is a dreary, lonely place and Mark doesn't like it even one little bit.

Grief by Mattel

Heaven's A Drag, of course, is meant to be funny, and the film is played in something of that bedroom farce style that fans of Brit comedy seem to adore. But Heaven also comes across as a pale imitation of Parting Glances – it's got the wacky fag-hag best friend, her clueless hetero boyfriend, the eccentric dying queen, the unresponsive macho lover, and return-of-the-spirit scenes replete with dramatic opera highlights (Bizet in this case, not Mozart). What it doesn't have – ironically – is much charity for its characters.

Having said all that, my prediction is, nevertheless, that Heaven's A Drag will be one of the Festival's more popular films – not because it as great movie, but because we're so bad at mourning that cheap sentimentality is often our only option. Moreover, because of its subject matter, Heaven covers territory that no one will find irrelevant. But the film remains frustrating because it is so prescriptive about grief – there's not a frame's worth of compassion for Simon or for the proposition that his way of confronting loss might have some organic, even healthy foundation. Instead, Heaven's A Drag trades in Hallmark-card-style emotion and, because of that, doesn't stray far from superficial.

Moreover, although Heaven tries to be an endorsement of healthy grieving – everything that happens to Simon is for his own good, of course; the 'shown to have been an emotional cement block ever since his father died – it ends up suggesting tha "real" grief may take but a few forms. Near the end of the film, for example. as Simon finally begins to come to terms with Mark's death, he doesn't get mad or join ACT-UP or volunteer to distribute food baskets to shut-ins. Rather, he pulls Mark's Quilt panel out of the closet and, sobbing at last, hugs it to his chest. That, in turn, releases Mark into the



Thomas Arklie plays hunky TV repairman Simon

real heaven – he's only been in the waiting room – where he is welcomed into eternal peace by half-naked, mus-cle-bound angels in gold body paint. Not a dry eye in the

On the other hand ...

Still, Heaven's A Drag does have its less manipulative and more genuinely charming moments. There's a great scene in which Mark's ghost rescues Simon from a group of fag-bashers and another in which Simon finalgroup of tag-basners and another in which Simon limbly works up enough gumption to come out to his poofter-baiting jerk co-worker (Simon invites him for a drink after work, but doesn't tell him that he's taking him to a fag bar). And there's some spot-on writing (Mark and Simon's next-door neighbor, for instance, lamenting the departure of yet another of her worthless boyfriends, remarks wearily, "I think like a feminist but I feel like a

Catholic").

All that aside, Heaven seems to waver constantly between realism (Simon's heart-to-heart with his Mum, the underused Jean Boht) and fluff (Mark's ghost likes to play practical jokes on Simon's tricks). In the expanding genre of AIDS films, Heaven's A Drag probably won't go down as one of the more profound, but it does have a sweetness about it which, when Heaven resists becoming saccharine, is oddly endearing.

Heaven's A Drag plays June 16 at the Castro Theatre, 7 p.m.



The glamorous Tom Ammiano



Sabrina Matthews

Ammiano, Blakk, Matthews To Host Fab Screening of Clipumentary

oin GLAAD/SFBA for the 1995 edition of Seen Anything Good Lately?, the queer television year-in-review program on June 22. This 75-minute video presentation is a raucous ride through high and low points of this year's television talk shows, sitcoms, news, dramatic series, music videos, made-for-TV movies – even

commercials. Don't miss the clips everyone has been talking about! The evening features Tom Ammiano, Joan Jett Blakk, Robin Greenspan, Hank Plante and comic Sabrina Matthews. Join the fun. Thursday, June 22 at 8 p.m. at the Castro Theatre. Tickets, which range in price from \$8-\$25, are on sale now at A Different Light Bookstore. ▼

L/G FILM FESTIVAL



The cast of Thin Ice.

.....

Fiona Cunningham's 'Thin Ice'

Frigid Follies

by Marianne Dresser

hin Ice is a somewhat unlikely tale of burning ambition, ice skating, and lesbian love, set in London and at the 1994 Gay Games in New York.

Steffi is a black lesbian ice skater and aspiring photojournalist who hopes to launch her career with a splashy feature story on the same-sex figure skating competition at the Games. The film opens as Steffi and her skating partner/girlfriend have a falling-out. Exhibiting nary a trace of emotion over losing her lover, Steffi's real distress is that her dreams of making the big time are left in the lurch. But this girl is driven and determinedly sets out to find a replacement.

Meanwhile, we are introduced to Natalie. a young, white straight

Meanwhile, we are introduced to Natalie, a young, white straight woman who shares an unhappy home with her alcoholic mother, an embittered older sister, and the sister's obnoxious, predatory husband. Natalie's one joy – you guessed it – is ice skating. Steffi mets her at the rink one day and befriends her with an eye to recruiting Nat as her skating partner. So begins Steffi's careful seduction of the naive Natalie: she encourages her skating efforts, invites her out for an evening at the local gay bar, tries to draw her out about her unhappy home life. Finally, during a weekend in the country with her gay friend Greg, Steffi asks Natalie to enter the ice-skating competition with her.

Of course, neither she nor Greg, who also hopes to jump-start his

Of course, neither she nor Greg, who also hopes to jump-start his writing career with the story, reveal their grand scheme. Flattered and charmed by Steffi's attention, Natalie is easy prey for the inevitable sexual tumble, and immediately falls in love. Nat at least has the good sense to tell the cold-hearted Steffi where to get off when she inevitably discovers the deception. Steffi's plans thwarted again, she and Greg go off to New York to try and salvage their project. But then Natalie, apparently driven by her great (if unfathomable) love for Steffi, miraculously appears on the horizon and the two are on ice once again.

Of the two women, Natalie is by

Of the two women, Natalie is by far the more well-developed and sympathetic character. The script gives her a bit of personal history which helps us understand her motivation and desires, her vulnerabilities and strengths. Steffi remains something of a cipher; she comes off as a kind of lesbian Machiavelli who will use any means necessary – including manipulating Natalie's loneliness and need – to realize her careerist ambitions. Nat's falling for Steffi is a bit of a stretch, given her self-serving and duplicitous behavior. (Girls, be forewarned: it is a law of nature that you will fall in love

with the first woman you sleep with, even if she's about as emotionally warm as an ice chest.) Thin Ice has the feel of a project designed to take full advantage of **Continued on page 70**

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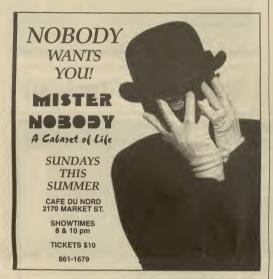
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L/G FILM FESTIVAL



A video still from Tim Bailey's Political Funerals.

'Anatomy of Desire' Juggles Politics, Biology, History

Axes To Grind

by Wendell Ricketts

hen the late Mark Lowe Fisher's manifesto, "Bury Me Furiously," appeared anonymously in the now-defunct QW magazine in October 1992, it wasn't the first time an activist had suggested that the funerals of friends and lovers with AIDS deserved to assume a political and social dimension far beyond the act of private grieving.

social dimension far beyond the act of private grieving.

In 1988, writing in "Post Cards from America: X-Rays from Hell," his catalog essay for "Witnesses: Against Our Vanishing," an Artists Space exhibit in New York, David Wojnarowicz observed, "There is a tendency for people affected by this epidemic to police each other or prescribe what the most important gestures for dealing with this experience of loss would be. I resent that, and at the same time worry that friends will slowly become professional pallbearers ... perfecting their rituals of death rather than a relatively simple ritual of life such

their rituals of death rather than a relatively simple ritual of life such as screaming in the streets."

Screaming in the streets, then, is what James Wentzy's Political Funerals, one of four short films in the "Anatomy of Desire" compilation showing at the Victoria Theatre on June 17th, is all about. Even at only 29 minutes, it's an extraordinary piece of documentary work (first produced by DIVA – Damned Interfering Video Activists – on AIDS Community Television in New York).

Beginning with striking images

Beginning with striking images from Wojnarowicz's own New York funeral, Wentzy infuses his documentary with a kind of home-movie edginess; the occasionally odd

angle or the shakiness of a hand holding a camera add to the docu-mentary's sense of immediacy and, indeed, to its humanity. These are regular people attending the funer-als of their regular friends – that horrific and familiar ritual.

als of their regular friends – that horrific and familiar ritual. What isn't regular, however, is the sight of a body being carried through the public streets in an open coffin. The D.C. funeral of Tim Bailey, for example, which Wentzy includes, provoked a bizarre confrontation with police. Marchers, attempting to take Bailey's coffin out of a van for a procession, were ordered to stop. When they insisted on continuing, a macabre wrestling match took place, with the coffin at the center of it and Bailey's body jostling around inside. It sounds undignified – disrespect for the dead and all – but the scene is almost supernaturally inspiring. It's the immediacy again – that and the question that the documentary asks so well: Whomever the "authorities" are in any given situation, what are they so afraid to let people see?

Indeed, wherever they take place, political funerals are frequently attacked – largely because of the powerful reactions (and calls to action) that they invoke. One of the great ironies of the South African freedom movement, in fact, was that public funerals almost

African freedom movement, in fact, African freedom movement, in fact, was that public funerals almost always brought violence from police and that, in turn, often led to another public funeral. It was an eloquent, if cruel, metaphor for the cycle of oppression in South Africa

cycle of oppression in South Africa under apartheid.

Wojnarowicz, among others, saw the utility of such demonstrations for the struggle against AIDS—both for their furtherance of political goals and for their ability to remind the living that grief did not have to be remain poissed, did not remind the irVing that grief and not have to be remain private, did not have to be kept politely apart from anger. Wojnarowicz, whose words are heard as narration throughout the film, wrote in "Post Cards from America," "I imagine what it would be like if, each time a lover, friend or stranger died of this disease their or stranger died of this disease, their friends, lovers, or neighbors would take their dead body and drive with it in a car a hundred miles an hour to Washington D.C. and blast through the gates of the white house ... and then dump their lifeless form on the front steps. It would be com-forting to see those friends, neigh-bors, lovers and strangers mark time and place and history in such a

time and practing time and practing public way."

Indeed, the 1992 "Ashes Action" in Washington, D.C. was almost exactly that. In Wentzy's footage, marchers hurl bowls and baggies

and ums full of dead friends' cre-mation ashes over the gates of the White House and onto the lawn, translating into action a marriage of personal and political motivations that is literally breathtaking. If these are mere gestures, they are, as Mark Fisher wrote, gestures which make clear that "the living, those who love the deceased, are bereaved, furious and undefeated."

Gray Anatomy

Gray Anatomy
Accompanying Political
Funerals is Anatomy of Desire, a
somewhat tedious and overlong
documentary on that popular red
herring of a question, "is homosexuality biological?" Focusing on the
work of neuroanatomist Simon
LeVay, and including interviews
with historians Lillian Faderman
and Martin Duberman, June
Reinisch (Director of the Kinsey
Institute), Thomas Szasz (whose
Manufacture of Madness is a classic Institute), Thomas Szasz (whose Manufacture of Madness is a classic text on the issue of the "psychiatrization" of Western culture), among others, Anatomy limns the development of 20th-century medical and psychological concepts of homosexuality.

The metain is great but the

homosexuality.

The material is great, but the piece is badly edited and winds up favoring the stiff, "talking heads" approach that explains why people hate documentaries. Finally, too little attention is giving to what is perhaps the most neglected (and most realitically, regian) guestion in the politically crucial) question in the agonizing and apparently endless debate about HomoBio. Not until debate about riomobil. Not until the end of the documentary, that is, does Anatomy allow one lone les-bian scholar (no name; the rough cut I saw didn't have titles) to propose the key postulate. "Perhaps," she says, "we shouldn't be arguing for bodily-based rights."

Warm and Haven: Fluff and Fluff

The evening is rounded out by Warm and Haven, two very short – in all senses of the words – subjects by Canadian filmmaker Wrik Mead.

by Canadian filmmaker Wrik Mead. They're incomprehensible, filmstudent dreck and, since they were produced in 1992, one wonders why they're in the 1995 Festival. Go for Political Funerals and stay for Anatomy of Desire—if only to get a look at some of the most important queer theorists and historians in the US today. But no one is going to blame you if, during Warm and Haven, you run out to put more and *Haven*, you run out to put more butter on your popcorn. ▼

Anatomy of Desire, Political Funerals, Warm and Haven play June 17 (6 p.m.) at the Victoria Theatre.

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L/G FILM FESTIVAL

'Midnight Dancers'

Mixed Messages

by Wendell Ricketts

idnight Dancers, director Mel Chionglo's docudrama about male sex workers in the Philippines, is an overwrought, dreary, and rather disturbing moralistic entry into San Francisco's 19th International Lesbian and Gay Film

Although the film takes as its specific focus the lives of the members of one family in a Manila slum, it manages little of the humanity of, say, Salaam Bombay!, Mira Nair's 1988 look at the depleted expectations and crushing gloom of thirdworld powerty.

tions and crushing gloom of third-world poverty.

At the same time, although
Chionglo attempts to evoke a wider
cultural context for the choices of
the young Filipino men who work as
"macho" bar dancers and "call
boys" in Midnight Dancers, he is
oddly exploitative, even judgmental,
in a way that Lizzie Borden's
insightful Morking Girls, which
dealt with a similar subject, was not.
In Chionglo's vision, male prostitution is but a first step onto a slip-

In Chionglo's vision, male prostitution is but a first step onto a slippery moral slope: First comes involvement in petty crime, then drugs, then the disintegration of the family and finally (in one of the film's hardest-to-bear scenes), a gruesome end at the hands of machete-wielding crooked cops. Chionglo himself puts it this way in his film notes: "My attitude and insights (are that) material deprivation breeds moral laxity and, ultimately, spiritual deprayity" In tion breeds moral laxity and, ulti-mately, spiritual depravity ... " In other words, poor folks tend to abandon their sense of right and wrong. Not knowing all the facts, one must perhaps give Chionglo the benefit of the doubt: He may not realize how tyrannical such a state-ment sounds.

ment sounds.

But poverty is at the heart of Midnight Dancers, and Chionglo paints the three young brothers – the film's heroes – as heterosexual men caught in economic and social circumstances they do not control and cannot change. They aren't exactly forced into homosexuality – indeed, in the world of Midnight. indeed, in the world of Midnight Dancers there are the "men" and there are the "gays," and none of the film's protagonists is the latter – but into an underground economy in which attractive flesh is a form of black-market currency.

Unclear on the concept
What is frustrating about
Midnight Dancers, however, is that
while Chionglo obviously views the
brothers' occupation as a moral outrage, he does not make clear the reason for his outrage. Midnight
Dancers is banned in the Philippines
- allegedly because of its indictment
of that country's economic policies
but the characters in the film never
actually utter a word of complaint
against the government or even
against povery. What haunts and
taints the brothers then isn't being
poor and doing work they find abusive and unpleasant (particulars they
share with many of the world's bluecollar workers). Instead, it's their collar workers). Instead, it's their contact with homosexual men that is steadily eroding their souls. In one of the film's most telling scenes, for instance, one brother muses to another, "They say that we lose nothing (when we have sex with homosexuals) because we are men. But we do als) because we are men. But we do lose something. I don't know what, but something is lost." And the boys' mother, a study in 'long-suffering womanhood, endlessly bewails the 'punishment' she has brought down on the family by "allowing" her sons to work in the bars.

All of these, of course, are extremely complicated moral issues, but Chionglo chooses, unfortunately, not to unrayel them.

unfortunately, not to unravel them. Add to that a perfectly outrageous sense of melodrama (which will be



A scene from Mel Chionglo's Midnight Dancers.

Filipino soap operas, and Spanish-language television), and *Midnight Dancers* goes straight (pardon the expression) over the top.

Midnight Dancers plays Friday, June 16 (11:15 p.m.), at the Castro Theatre.

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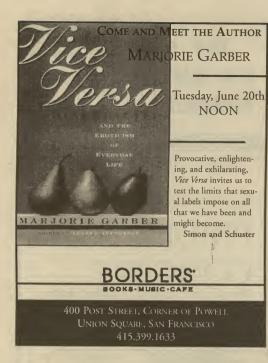
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Introduction by Robert MacNeil, MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour

Robert Bernstein's inspiring account of his coming to terms with his daughter's homosexuality serves as a call to action to all parents of gays, not just to love and accept their gay children, but to speak out on their behalf. It includes sketches of courageous P-FLAG—Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays—members who have taken the lead in seeking social equality and justice for their gay loved ones.

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L/G FILM FESTIVAL

'Bittersweet: Boys' Shorts 3' **Lighten Up**

ast year, the queer film fest's Boys' Shorts pro-gram more than lived up to the innuendo of its title, devoting lots of screen time to pulchritudinous young males in boxers and briefs. This year's compilation of short films has an entirely different, decidedly less provocative slant. *Bittersweet*, the program's title, is putting it mildly; what we get here is an hour and a half or so of queer angst.

The shorts are split about evenly between hits and misses. First, the hits: *Prague* is an engaging story about the ridiculous lengths of one man's fear of commitment; the sweet, plaintive *If Only* captures the horror of the high school dance norror of the high school dance from a queer perspective; Forsaken is a quiet, solemn, if static, drama about a boy torn between love and religious faith; The Dadshuttle is the collection's best short, a painfully realistic conversation between a father and his closeted gay son, who can talk about any-

thing except things that matter.
The misses include: The Kiss On
the Cliff, a tale of the different paths the Cliff, a tale of the different paths taken by two gay teens, is like an After School Special, only with even less depth and more clichés; tear-stained poetry and song lyrics combine with fuzzy black and white images of cute boys in You and I Will Play, a sophomoric meditation on the pain of young love; How He Goes has no point other than to show us a gay relationship in a fairly fresh setting (the world of skater kids and punk bands); the



Don Handfield (front) and Chad Baker in Forsaken.

collection's most (inexplicably) celebrated short, Alkali, Iowa, is a technically impressive, but otherwise unremarkable film about a

young man discovering a secret about his long-departed dad. My suggestion to Frameline for next year's festival is to cut the

mopiness and bring back the gratuitous beefcake. I'll take mindless sex over mindless gloom any day.

Bittersweet: Boys' Shorts 3 plays the Castro Theatre June 17 at 11 a.m.

Top Nun

Continued from cover

Based on Octavio Paz's Pitfalls of Faith, Bemberg's film offers an austere analysis of the social, political and religious forces against which our proto-feminist shero must struggle in order to keep faith with her genius. As in many another clear-cut historical drama, the characin many another clear-cut historical drama, the charac-ters are as sharply defined as pieces on a chess board. The State, in the form of a liberal Viceroy, clashes with the Church, in the person of a woman-hating Archbishop. The wise, independent-minded Abbess gets voted out and replaced by an evil, sandal-licking Abbess, who's in cahoots with the Archbishop. What free expres-sion Sister Juana indulges in is continually menaced by the father of all censors: Rome, Back in the old country across the Atlantic (but ever-present in the prayers of the small-minded) looms the paranoia-inducing Inquisition, whose flames are ready to consume authors as well as

Style! Wit! Passion!

At film's start, Sister Juana is already behind convent bars. Over the succeeding 109 minutes, we witness the long, drawn-out, but ultimately losing battle Juana wages against the forces of corruption and conformity. Her case recalls that of her contemporary, Galileo, with the difference that she's unjustly censured not only for the thoughts she thinks, but, as a woman, for daring to think at all. In lesser hands than Bemberg's, this material might have resulted in a turgid, dreary object lesson. But the late, great septuagenarian Argentinian has instilled her film with style, wit and passion, paying tribute to the life of the mind and the ultimate mystery of the human spirit.

Unlike Galileo – and justifying the film's inclusion in the L/GFF - the writing nun gets to sample the inspira-tions and frustrations of reciprocal (if unconsummated) lesbian love. Dominique Sanda as the love interest brings to her role great dignity, and not a little of her trademark monotonality – and on her it's sexy. Once we accept that these noble spirits aren't bar girls and the stakes they're playing for are of a high order, freedom itself, their smallest departure from the stringent rules of social intercourse, the subtlest gleam in their eyes, translates as radical sex.

When Maria Luisa asks Juana to loosen her bodice. When Maria Luisa asks Juana to loosen her bodice, or when Juana, crowned with vibrant blue quetzal feathers, kneels to the Vicereine as "at the Conquistador's feet" (an improvisation as politically incorrect today as it would have been sacrilegious then), or when Maria Luisa asks Juana to remove her nun's veil and kisses her, we sense that this seduction is both necessary to Juana's

we sense that this seduction is both necessary to Juana's development and ultimately dangerous to her spirit. Like just about everyone else in this story, the Vicereine ultimately betrays Juana, albeit "only" philosophically. A beautiful woman, a woman meant for love, Maria Luisa ultimately suffers from a reductive, not to say reproductive, view of gender.

Shedding her former allies one by one, Sister Juana perseveres not unlike Everyman [sic], until her own turn comes to renounce her worldly self in order to save her immortal soul. This is a sorry end for so strong a will and Bemberg manages Juana's ascendance from brilliance to enlightenment (if that's what it is) with middling conviction. Assumpta Serna, who's been as crisp and charming as a well-tossed salad up 'til now, is suddenly saddled with spotty old-age make-up, on her denly saddled with spotty old-age make-up, on her hands and knees washing floors, while all around her writhing extras demonstrate the horrors of the plague.

writhing extras demonstrate the horrors of the plague. When physical push comes to mortal shove, intellectual convictions may well be revealed to be unnecessary luxuries, but it's a hard cinematic transition to make. When de la Cruz finally signs herself "1, the worst of all," it's unclear whether she's being ironic or sincere. The arrogance implicit in the use of the superlative worst hints at an imperfect repentance. Maybe Bemberg has left purposefully ambiguous a question that each viewer must ultimately answer for her/himself. ▼

'Thin Ice'

Continued from page 67

far more compelling actual eve than dramatic narrative ones. The finale of Steffi and Natalie's story seems to pale against the real drama

of New York streets choked with of New York streets choked with Stonewall marchers; the two women's "triumph" on the ice at the Gay Games figure-skating competi-tion feels like a footnote to the excitement and exhilaration of the event itself. Thin Ice is generally well-acted and technically wellproduced. Overall, the ice seems thick enough, it's the characterization and plot that feel a little thin.

Thin Ice plays Friday, June 16 (9:30 p.m.) at the Castro Theatre.

Four Videos About Male Prostitution

Turning Tricks

ale sex workers get their own program at the Film Festival in Trick Or Treat, four videos offering insight into the lot of gay prostitution. Two documentaries offer portraits of street hustlers from Los Angeles and New York City, and another follows a call boy around London. York City, and another follows a call boy around London. Differences in class, country, lifestyle and business practices drive home the truth that not all working boys are alike.

David Geffner's "Easy Money" is presented as a work-in-progress, and its black-and-white images of Santa Monica Blyd, hustlers do feel part of a rough cut. These street.

Santa Monica Blvd. hustlers do feel part of a rough cut. These street workers are bracingly honest about their work and their drug habits: as one remarks, "Tweakers want to stay up longer and make more money." But Geffner needs to wrap up his footage into a more coherent package before any further forays on the festival circuit.

By contrast, "Sex Is Sex: Conversations With Male Prostitutes," directed by Brian Bergen and Jennifer Milici, is fully developed, a comprehensive run-

developed, a comprehensive run-down of the words and wisdom from some NYC hustlers. Clocking in at over 50 minutes, the document in at over 50 minutes, the documentary feels overlong and badly in need of editing. The directors' technique is to present a handful of hustlers' talking head responses on various issues, in a way that makes most of their remarks redundant. These are all variations on the same themes; eeting naid turns them one. These are all variations on the same themes: getting paid turns them on, there is an art to hustling, they fell into the life as a survival tactic, and so on. Although there are some differences among them (most claim not to be homo- or even bi- sexual, but merely sexual, while one dude proudly declares he's gay), they are not great enough to stave off the ensuing tedium. When one says, "I thought it was really cool at first,



Image from the Trick or Treat program

like Pretty Baby," or another admits that he needs to trick to feel loved and wanted, it's easy to appreciate their candor and self-knowledge. Over the long run, however, you remember that no one pays these guys because they are great conversationalists.

gays occause they are great conversationalists.

More varied and baroque is Liz Jackson's "Trick Or Treat," a study of one John Bratherton, a Cambridge grad in philosophy who has sex with gents for money. John is a smart and articulate lad, and he emphasizes that his profession was a conscious choice, one that's been "a positive force in my life," giving him freedom and self-direction. We are treated to "day in the life" footage such as John reading his fan mail aloud in the bath, which is only problematic because his life is not quite as interesting as he thinks it is.

However, the British doc does

However, the British doc does score several points for its inclusion as talking heads of not only John and John's cute (and fellow prostie) boyfriend Mark, but also a client of

spend all his money on himself, it's nice to be able to spend it on Mark. Right on.

About the program opener, Steve Orr's amateurish "Cold Bath," the less said the better. A sex

Bath," the less said the better. A sex worker notes in voice-over that he hasn't changed at all on the job, besides getting older and catching a fatal disease. Pretty bleak.

Viewers with an interest in hustlers and their lives probably already know most of what these videos have to say on the subject. A wiser investment of time might be to hire one.

Trick Or Treat plays at the Victoria Theater on Saturday, June 17 at 8:30 p.m.

A DIFFERENT LIGHT

Monday, June 19 at 7:30 p.m.



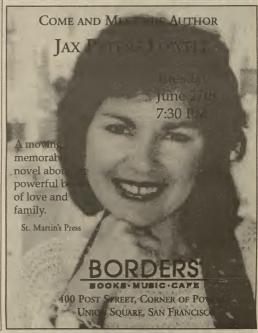
Marjorie Garber

discusses

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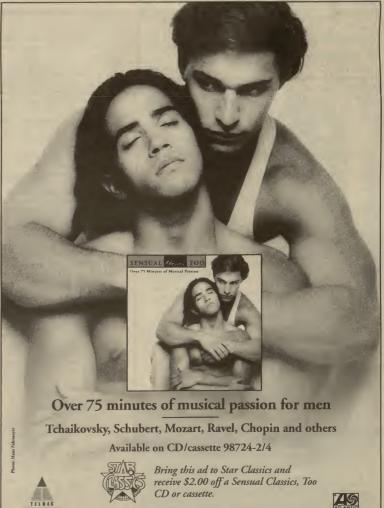


Opening Night at Film Festival '95

hotographer Jane Cleland was on hand Friday to take pics of the glamorous opening night festivities of the 1995 Lesbian and Gay Film Festival at the Castro Theatre. Her camera captured the highs and lows of this most fabulous of evenings.

(Above): Frameline Programming Director Boone Nguyen (left) yucks it up with Marga Gomez (middle) and Festival co-programmer Jennifer Morris (right).

Don't miss the big closing night Warehouse Party Benefit for Frameline on Saturday, June 17 at 938 Harrison (yes, that. 938 Harrison). Featured guests include Elvis Herselvis, Justin Bond, Ggregetta Dee Taylor. Diet Popstitute, Stafford, Deena Davenport and all the other scenesters and glamulites (you know who you are). 11:30 p.m. till whenever.





A Funny Story About Growing Up Gay

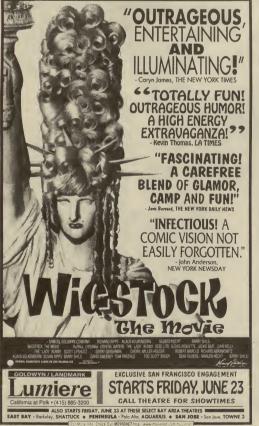
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THEATRE

Hart

Continued from cover

Greg MacKellan, a musical the Greg MacKellan, a musical the-ater archivist and director of 42nd Street Moon's A Connecticut Yankee, says that the success of Rodgers and Hammerstein has obliterated the great work of Rodgers and Hart. "Rodgers and Hammerstein were like this think tank in the '40s and '50s, mowing down exercition and becoming down everything and becoming tremendously identifiable. Rodgers promoted the relationship he had with Hammerstein and dismissed the one he had with Hart."

MacKellan says that Yankee demonstrates the creative growth and the ultimate end of Rodgers and Hart. "In the original songs you can hear the cute Gilbert and Sullivan-like songs from the late '20s, but the songs added for the revival are more sophisticated.

sophisticated.
"Larry Hart was older and sadder and you can hear it in his lyrics. I suspect Rodgers helped out with the lyrics because Hart was ill with alcoholism. You can feel the twinkle slightly less in Hart's eye in the later songs, even though 'Can't You Do a Friend a Favor?" is one of the most wonderful ballads he ever wrote."

Frustrated homosexual

Frustrated homosexual
Kathy Philis, a New York-based researcher and musical theater enthusiast, has been exploring Hart's life and work for the past five years and hopes to write the definitive biography of Hart, one that finally relates the brilliance of his work to the important elements of his life, including his homosexuality, his Jewishness and his overwhelming insecurity.

"The biographies that surfaced in the '70s all outed Hart," Philis explains. "But they did so in a snide,

explains. "But they did so in a snide, homophobic way. Of course, Hart, the unhappy homo, was depressed. Of course he destroyed himself – it's the expected trajectory. That was their attitude. I don't take that atti-tude. Larry Hart is a hard person to research because he left very little research because he left even little behind, and what he did leave behind belongs to his sister-in-law Dorothy Hart, who maintains to this day that Hart was not gay. In her biography of him, she attempts to whitewash the songwriter's life and excise anything she deems unsavory. So all we have is what people tell us, and there is no way to distinguish between truth and fiction. People have been lying about Hart for so long that it's hard to get to the truth. It's almost like people are trying to obliterate his life."

Even Hart's exact height — a major source of his insecurity — is unknown. It is generally accepted that Hart was under five feet and that that was under five feet and that his head was slightly too large

that Hart was under five feet and that his head was slightly too large for his body and that his arms and legs were somewhat foreshortened. The family's unwillingness to share any part of Hart's life makes it difficult for researchers like Philis to put the pieces together, and it doesn't look like the family will be willing to share information any time soon: Hart's nephew Lorenz Hart II works for Newt Gingrich.

Progress, though, is being made.

works for Newi Gingrich.
Progress, though, is being made.
Philis has unearthed a taped interview with Rodgers that was not to
be released until Rodger's death.
On the tape, Philis says, Rodgers
talks openly about Hart's homosexuality. "For the first 10 years of
their working relationship Rodgers
suspected Hart was gay, but he says
it wasn't until they moved to
Hollywood to work on musical
films that he knew for sure."

More than a lyricist
Philis explains: "There's a theory that Rodgers was the great unrequited love of Hart's life. They quited love of Hart's life. They began working together when Dick Rodgers was 16 and Larry Hart was 23. Whether or not Larry was in love with Dick, they certainly developed a very intense relationship for a gay and a straight man. After only a few years of working together, the tables had turned and

World Class 'Yankee'

by Chad Jones

halk up another tri-umph for 42nd Street Moon, one of only four companies in the world devoted to the preservaworld devoted to the preserva-tion and presentation of "lost" musicals. A Connecticut Yankee, the first show in their ambitious Hammerstein and Hart Festival, is a delight from beginning to end. The buoyant score by Rodgers and Hart is the real star of the evening, but with one of the strongest easts. with one of the strongest casts yet in a 42nd Street Moon pro-duction, Yankee soars with the help of some beguiling star turns by supporting cast mem-

bers.
In 1943, when Richard Rodgers was reeling from the success of his first collaboration with Oscar Hammerstein (the show was a little something called Oklahoma), the composer made one last attempt to save the foundering career of his first songwriting partner, Lorenz Hart, an enor mously gifted man who lived life in the shadow of his homosexuality and towering

homosexuality and towering insecurity.

The project Rodgers chose was A Connecticut Yankee, a show that he and Hart wrote in 1927. Rodgers convinced Hart to write six new songs for the revised version, and during the entire pre-production, period. revised version, and during the entire pre-production period. Hart's battle with alcoholism and depression waned. But by the time the show opened, Hart had fallen off the wagon and had to be thrown out of the theater on opening night. Lorenz Hart died of pneumonis firm days later.

Lorenz Hart died of pneumonia five days later.

That such a sad state of affairs could spawn such a good-natured show is extraordinary. Hart's final contributions to the world of musical theater rank among his best. The rollicking, murderous "To Keep My Love Alive" demonstrates that Hart was working in top form. The ballad "Can't You Do A Friend A Favor?" in top form. The ballad "Can't You Do A Friend A Favor?" begins as a wry entreaty for reciprocal affection but becomes a wise lesson about friends eschewing romance and just staying friends. To know what agony Hart was in is to be even more impressed by the vivacity and good humor of his work.

Under the strong direction of Greg MacKellan, this Connecticut Yankee is about as lively and colorful as a concert version of the show could be version of the show could be. With no set save two rows of chairs and two wooden cubes, the production leaps into life as if it were only inches from Broadway. The audience's imagination is fully engaged,

and the fabulous sets and cos-tumes are hardly missed.

The glory of Camelot,
King Arthur, Sir Lancelot and
all the round table rigmarole is heartily supplied by the energetic cast of 11, and the plot details (Herbert Fields wrote the book based on Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court) are fun but unimportant. Despite some belly laughs from the otherwise problematic book – is there such a thing as a good second act in musical theater? - the real meat of the evening is in the music, which is ably directed here by Peggy Gorham

As Morgan Le Fay, King Arthur's husband-killing sister, Lesley Hamilton has the audience drinking right out of her poisoned chalice. With comic timing to kill, Hamilton gets a laugh with almost every gets a laugh with almost every line, and her star turn on "To Keep My Love Alive" – a musical checklist of Le Fay's expected the ways she helped them meet their gruesome ends – brings down the house.

Though they don't shipe

Though they don't shine quite as brightly, Stephanie Rhoads and Joseph Lustig as the central romantic couple have some nice moments, especially in their duets on "Thou Swell" and "My Heart Stood Still." With songs like these, how can you go wrong?

A Connecticut Yankee continues at the New Conservatory Theatre through June 25. Call 861-8972 for informa-

Hart was dependent on the more responsible Rodgers for all business and emotional stability. Rodgers, even in spite of his homophobia, fiercely protected Larry and was very loyal while Larry was alive." Philis contends that knowing the ins and outs of Hart's demons is not essential to understanding his work. "All art can be appreciated on its

essential to understanding his work.
"All art can be appreciated on its own, but the history adds depth," she says. "I think Hart was a poet, not just a lyricist. He reveals a lot of not just a lyricist. He reveals a lot of the ways. things about himself and the ways we think about love that are atypical for Tin Pan Alley. He is important in tor In Pan Alley. He is important in terms of gay history as well, and he needs to be rediscovered from this angle. There has been too much homophobic writing about him. The gay community does not know about Hart. They do not accept him as one of their own."

Director MacKellan agrees and a support of the placed to see Hart.

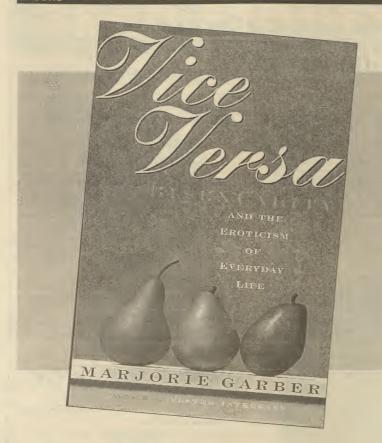
Director MacKellan agrees and says he is pleased to see Hart receiving so much attention on the occasion of his centenary. "The last Hart biography avoided the issue of his homosexuality and made excuses rather than embracing it and seeing what good it did for him and what it meant to him beyond the standard line."

Having studied Hart's lyrics

Having studied Hart's lyrics intensely for the last five years,

Philis maintains that the lyrics for songs such as "Glad to Be Unhappy" or "My Funny Valentine," are not tortured simply because Hart was gay. "These lyrics," she says, "are his rebellion against society for the position they put him in: you're short, ugly and you can't have love. Hart's lyrics are positive because through them he positive because through them he fought back. In lyrics he found love and overcame the obstacles society placed in his path. If he couldn't love somebody physically, he would write a song about that love. It was his cathartic release and, ultimately, his triumph rather than the doom and gloom people focus on. Lorenz Hart's life had a point and he achieved a great deal."

Rodgers and Hart's A Connecticut Yankee continues at the New Conservatory Theatre through June 25. Two more Rodgers and Hart shows will be offered in 42nd Street Moon's Rodgers & Hart & Hammerstein Festival: America's Sweetheart (1931) runs August 4 through 28, and I Married an Angel (1938) runs October 13-29. Call 861-8972 for information.



Marjorie Garber's 'Vice Versa'

Alternating Currents

Vice Versa: Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday Life by Marjorie Garber; Simon & Schuster, \$30

by Deborah Peifer

ong before 1 knew there was a name to describe my feelings for girls, I knew girls were what I wanted in life. When I fantasized about

my life. When I fantasized about my future, I always had children, but my husband was either dead (the A fantasy) or away on a very long (read: eternal) trip.

I did know, thanks to my Catholic upbringing, that there was an awful creature called a lesbian, a mannish woman who wore men's clothing, smoked cigars, and did unspeakable things to other women (and children, of course).

Never did I connect my feeling about girls with being (ugh) a lesbaout girls with girls w

Never did I connect my feeling about girls with being (ugh) a lesbian. I was so frightened of becoming one that, when I was 18, I became engaged to a 30-year-old man, hoping that his masculine presence would save me from the horrors of lesbianism.

l eventually did discover that being lesbian was a wonderful way to live. When I think of those early to live. When I think of those early days, though, especially when I was engaged to Ed (I met him at the march on the Pentagon in 1967), I never think of myself as having been bisexual. I think of myself as having been, for a while, a terrified lesbian. I suspect though, that Marjorie Garber would insist upon adding me to her list of bisexuals, and I'm not at all sure that I like that designation. In her latest book, Garber takes on bisexuality in all manner of shapes and sizes and dises and sizes and manner of shapes and sizes and political constructions; *Vice Versa* is an accessible book that is as entertaining and provocative as it is informative and infuriating.

the sexual paradigm

"There is no such thing as bisex-uality." Common wisdom. Garber opens the introduction to

Garber opens the introduction to her book with these two pieces of conventional wisdom, which serve both to prove the fallibility of common knowledge and to hint at what mon knowledge and to finit at what will be her intriguing argument throughout, that bisexuality exists not as a third sexual preference, but rather as "a sexuality that threatens and challenges the easy binaries of straight and gay, queer and 'het,' and even, through its biological and physiological meanings, the gender. physiological meanings, the gender categories of male and female." The result then is that the existence of bisexuality eliminates itself as a category – everyone is bisexual; there is no such thing as bisexuality. Garber looks at bisexuality as

Garber looks at bisexuality as history, as politics, as biography (her take on biographers who use imagined thoughts and conversations to prove their points about sexuality is wonderfully pointed—she refers to the could-shouldawoulda style as "the prurient wishful subjunctive"). Her discussion of Fernal and the way in which bisexy. Freud and the way in which bisexuality is the invisible foundation of his theories is particularly interesting. Her journey through the sexual identities of artists and celebrities is quite entertaining, and her suggestion that people may become celebrities because they are bisexual or become bisexual because they are celebrities is a particularly amusing take on the nature/nurture

It's just my

It's just my
imagination ...
But if there are no individuated sexualities, that is, if we are all simply sexual, then what happens to those of us who identify with a particular sexuality? Do we exist at all?
"Bisexuality," Garber says, "is not an 'identity' (or a figure or a trope) but a narrative, a story. Yet the practical necessities of politics require makine bisexuality into an require making bisexuality into an 'identity,' at the same time that

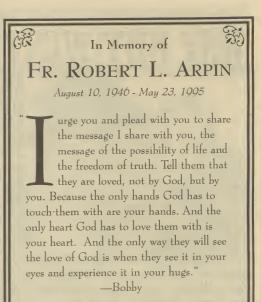
bisexuality itself, or bisexualities themselves, put in question the viability of any 'politics of identity' at all. The result, again in practical terms, has been considerable infighting among gays and lesbians on the one hand and bisexuals on the other, the very existence of which ironically underscores the face that these secure identities and fact that these secure identities and divisions are already on the way out. To acknowledge this is not to accept defeat but to recognize suc-

cess."
Funny, isn't it, but I've never been able to equate annihilation with success. And despite the fact that I agree with much of what Garber says, I find myself wondering whether it is at all useful in a partiarchal (and Republican) world patriarchal (and Republican) world order to accept the notion that we're all sexual and so there is no gay or all sexual and so there is no gay or lesbian identity with which to identify. It seems to me that an awful lor of hate groups must think we exist because they want to destroy us. I have to wonder if my existence as a lesbian is nullified by the existence of bisexuals, or if my lesbianism serves to nullify the existence of bisexuality. I don't know how either can be, since we're all here, but Garber's absolutism on the end of sexuality as a category forces me to think about these possibilities.

Vice Versa is a book that will make you think, and if I cannot agree with all of Garber's conclusions. I must and do respect the power of her arguments. She takes identity politics into the postmod-

identity politics into the postmod-ern world and turns it and them and all of us upside-down. No small feat for the written word.

Marjorie Garber will autograph copies of and read from *Vice Versa* on June 18 at Cody's Books in Berkeley (7:30 p.m.); at Border's Books in San Francisco on June 20 (12 p.m.); and on June 19th at A Different Light Bookstore



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Artist and Activist Ross Crich

Good Works

by Mary Richards

o talk with Ross Crich, you would never dream he could be an artist. His life is too filled with action, and his mind is a whirlwind of ideas. How could he possibly sit down and draw, or take the time to scripply hearing as page 1 down and draw, or take the time to seriously observe anything as passive as a flower when one night he's donning a tuxedo to make an appearance at the Imperial Court and the next he's full of plans for two or three new ways to raise money for AIDS organizations?

Although AIDS activism comes first, Ross is an artist. There will be an exhibition (with cocktail party kick-off) of his work during Gay Pride festivities this month in San Francisco.

Francisco.

The exhibit, "Bayside Backyards," will be up June 15-August 15 at the Company cocktail lounge on California Street. The bar is usually home to a different artist every month, and Ross is looking forward to adorning the walls of this comfortable neighborhood pub with his drawings of the delights to be found in the gardens of San Francisco.

In one work, for instance, you might notice a frog resting near a potted plant under the bright moon of a summer's night. He's keeping company with a shy snail who has just come out of his shell. To an artist, even the smallest of creatures have romance in their souls. Then take some time to really look at a



Study of a sunflower by Ross Crich.

flower, perhaps a lily or an iris, for just a little longer than usual. If you do, you might notice the delicate veins in its petals and the way it sensuously curves upward toward

sensuously curves upward toward the sun.

The backyard images that Ross depicts are stilled for our pleasure, kept fresh for the eye long after their time has passed. Once he sits down to draw, he will focus on his project for eight hours or more, concentrating a carch pan stroke until

project for eight hours or more, con-centrating on each pen stroke until the picture is complete. "My works are not to everyone's taste," Ross says. "They're tradi-tional pen and ink. They're detailed, so they have been framed fairly simply, and the profix will be sonable and the profits will be divided between the AIDS Project Contra Costa, the Imperial Court and the AIDS Emergency Fund."

An Aussie in Alaska
Transplanted from Sydney,
Australia, where he studied nursing,
became a bar owner and published a
gay magazine, Ross has spent the gay magazine, Koss has spent the past five years in Anchorage. Although in his heart he always considered San Francisco home, it is what he describes as personal, "multiple loss" that finally brought him here to live with his companion and love, Michael Richardson.

The years in Alaska were well-

spent. Ross worked with the Alaskan AIDS Assistance Alaskan AIDS Assistance Association on education and out-reach to a diverse population that included the gay community, natives, rednecks and just about anybody else who ended up in the last frontier.

One of the main fundraising

One of the main fundraising groups in Anchorage is the Imperial Court, and Ross decided to take advantage of the high profile that being a member of the court offered. He was elected emperor and reigned from 1993 to 1994.

"I did some artwork in Alaska," but not a lot. I didn't have time. Once I got to San Francisco, I decided to take six months off before I started work again. So I got back into my artwork, which I had

before I started work again. So I got back into my artwork, which I had not done for about three years."

Ross says there will be "a nohost bar with munchies" at the "Bayside Backyards" opening at Company, 1319 California (at Leavenworth), on Friday, June 16, 7-10 p.m. This Nob Hill bar with its fireplaces and pleasant atmosphere is presided over by the legendary Greta Grass, aka Queen Mother of All California, Czarina of Market Street and Bartender Extraordinaire. It promises to be a fun evening to kick off the most exciting weekend of the year.



Photo: Darlene/Photo Graphic

Frog and pot study by Ross Crich.

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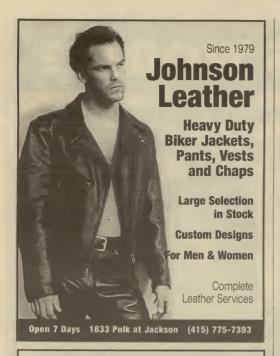
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Enrique (above), Pansy Division, The Hail Mary's, and Tribe 8 will perform in June queer pride musical extravaganza

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San Francisco Gav Pride Rock Extravaganza

The Queer Créme de la Créme

by Adrian Roberts

he year 1995 may very well go down in music his-tory as "The Year Queer Punk Broke."

tory as "The Year Queer Punk Broke."

You know something is up when major-label bands like Green Day start toting Pansy Division around the country with them on a national tour. Or when MTV starts running "Queer Punk" profiles on their The Week in Rock series. Or when trend pieces start popping up in music publications like Spin, Rolling Stone and Raygun and mainstream gay magazines Out and The Advocate.

The number of queer musicians starting bands has been snowballing, and nowhere is that more evident than here in San Francisco. Arguably the epicenter of Queer Rock, our fair city is home to over two dozen queer bands. This Friday, June 16, you'll get a chance to witness the crème de la crème of the scene as the Transmission Lounge presents a queer rock extravaganza featuring Pansy Division, Tribe 8, Enrique and the Hail Marys.

"Since tens of thousands of peo-

Hail Marys.
"Since tens of thousands of peo-"Since tens of thousands of peo-ple come to San Francisco to cele-brate gay pride," explains Jon Ginoli of Pansy Division, "we thought this would be something people would want to see – some-

Continued on page 77

Extravaganza

Continued from page 76

thing they couldn't necessarily get in their own towns. Plus, now that queer bands like us and Tribe 8 are starting to get national recognition, it seemed like a good time to have

this show."

But when Tribe 8 started over But when Tribe 8 started over four years ago, queer rock music was not popular. In fact, with few exceptions, it was practically unheard of. But forming the band in San Francisco definitely helped. "If we were in a more oppressive environment – a place that was more dogmatic, it would have been hard," artheirs environe. ougmant, it would nave been hard, explains guitarist Lynn Flipper. "But we had immediate support in San Francisco. Maybe there wasn't such a need in other places to have a punk dyke band. But here, the people who came to those early shows really kept us going while we were learning how to play."

were learning how to play."

"It was all in the spirit of punk rock!" exclaims outspoken singer Lynn Breedlove. "Ya know, punk rock – you don't have to know how to play!"

rock – you don't have to know how to play!"

But learn to play they did. With the recent release of their first full-length CD, the hard-rocking Fist City, the women of Tribe 8 have gotten more tight and polished than ever. They will soon embark on a national tour, eager to win over the hearts and souls of America.

The Hail Marys, who will open this Friday's show, have also done a lot recently in the tightness department. With a new rhythm section and a more aggressive sound, the band is getting set to release their debut CD, Sex Child, sometime in July. "There's much more of a punk spirit, but we don't necessarily sound punk," says butch singer Jackie Strano of her revitalized band. "We finally sound the way I want us to sound. But we're still very sardonic and tongue-in-check."

"We're not into the anner. very sardonic and tongue-in-cheek.'

"We're not into the anger thing," guitarist Peter Hudson clar-ifies. "We're into sarcasm. And

manipulation.

And they're into putting on a show. With sexy bravado, the Hail Marys have this thing for good oldfashioned rock-and-roll drama, and they play it to the hilt. "It's a total ritual," says Jackie. "We shop for new outfits! It's like we're preparing for a ceremony. For that isolated moment, when we're playing music on stage for an audience, nothing gets me off more."

Awesome Enrique, Pansy Division

Pansy Division
The second band on the bill,
Enrique, also brings a bit of theatricality to their live show. Wait, did I say a bit? Make that a lot! While not exactly punk, Enrique does have an endearing do-it-yourself aesthetic. They design their own costumes, make elaborate props, and give away specially-created Enrique door prizes at each show. It's all campy and fun, if not overwhelming.

It's all campy and fun, if not over-whelming.

This upcoming show will be Enrique's last until September, when the band plans on releasing its debut album, Cut the Cheese. The record should feature such favorites as "Love Is Not a Hallmark Card" and a cover of Pat Benatar's "Hell Is for Children." Seeing as they've been around for almost seven years, it's surprising that the band hasn't released anything sooner.

"Sometimes I feel like it's been a long haul," explains Enrique, one of the band's three flamboyant singers.
"But we had to evolve. Now we

"But we had to evolve. Now we have super musicians, and everyone is striving for the same goal. They understand the vision that has taken us all over like zombies! Now we can take over the world!" The evening's headliners, Pansy Division, already seem well on their

way toward world domination. With three albums and several tours under their belt, including one of Australia and New Zealand earlier this year, the poppy-yet-punk Pansies are probably the most pop-ular "queercore" band on the planet. They were also one of the first

"The reason I started this hand" "The reason I started this band," explains singer-guitarist Jon Ginoli, "is that I saw an opportunity to do something that I hadn't really seen before. To combine the queer part of my life with the music part is really satisfying. For me, it's about freedom—freedom—to this open."

He and bassist Chris Freeman have been taking it as far as they can for almost five years. And with queer

for almost five years. And with queer rock finally making headlines, it seems as if there's no end in sight. ▼

Pansy Division, Tribe 8, Enrique and the Hail Marys play Friday, June 16, at the Transmission Lounge, 11th Street at Folsom in San Street at Folsom in San Francisco. The show starts early – 9 p.m. – and admis-sion is \$6.









The Hail Marvs

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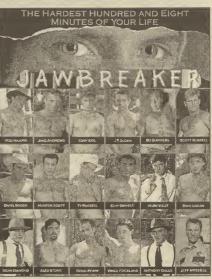
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Diane Aaronson (above), former Gay Games medalist, will present a basic weight-training clinic at Gold's Gym, 333 Valencia St., Sunday, July 17 at 7:30 p.m., sponsored by ABS.

Arcadia Bodybuilding Society Wants Your Body

by Diane Aaronson

ike any San Francisco gay/lesbian organization, Arcadia Bodybuilding Society (ABS) has had its share of ups and downs. Formerly called Physique, ABS was established after the 1986 Gay Games in order to provide bodybuilders with a year-round outlet for contests, camaraderie and health education.

ABS not only accomplished its goals, its members, who were highly visible at the Vancouver games, have served as role models for gay contests in other cities.

Unfortunately, although national interest has been sparked, local enthusiasm has waned, particularly during the non-Gay Games years. This year, the ABS Board had to make a difficult decision when it decided to cancel the bodybuilding contest scheduled for June. Though contestants were registered from as far away as Canada, England and New York, the organization lacked the funds to pay for the show, and since audience participation is also waning, there was no guarantee that they could recover the funds with ticket sales. Interest for serving on the Board of Directors has also dampened. The older board memthe Board of Directors has also dampened. The older board mem-bers from the '80s are long gone, no women have remained, and those who are left are desperate for new

input and energy.

Recently, Donna Solomon (a staff member at Valencia Street Gold's Gym) and Faith Sloan (a

New York Gay Games medalist) have decided to join the fight to save ABS from extinction. They have taken over the newsletter, which is disseminated to members which is disseminated to members, and have turned their energies to the task of breathing new life into ABS. It has always been difficult to attract enough female members to ABS. Consequently, ABS has become a fairly male-oriented organization. Faith and Donna would like to reverse this trend

fairly male-oriented organization. Faith and Donna would like to reverse this trend.

In an effort to attract women and more members in general, ABS is trying to make the club more attractive to people interested in basic fitness and weight training, rather than restrict it to bodybuilding. Their first effort will be a free clinic to be held at Gold's Gym, 333 Valencia St., on Saturday, July 17, 7:30 p.m. General information about how to begin weight training — nutrition, exercises, proper technique — will be addressed (by this writer), followed by some hands-on help with machines. Future seminars are being planned.

Though outreach through health education has always been an underlying theme for ABS, social events have been somewhat lacking. ABS is taking a long hard look at this shortcoming and is attempting to provide more networking opportunities in the future. Faith and Donna are interested in offering potluck parties (with healthy food)

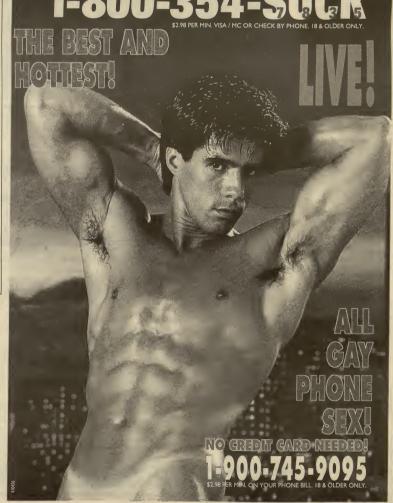
and Donna are interested in offering potluck parties (with healthy food) for the women.

The annual general election for new board members is held in

September, so now is the time to become involved. For more information about ABS, upcoming meetings and/or events, call their information line, (415) 978-9495. ▼







Now Has More Ads Than Ever!

ARTAI

Parting Glances

Desperately Seeking Shafreaka Call me and leave a messa miss you. © 4104.

Long Hard Filrt On J Long Hard Filirt On J
We flirted on J Sat 20th. Got off
on 16th. You said, " what a nice
way to end a long hard day,"
Leave message and first name. I'll
know it's you.

4101.

Campus Mon 5/15/85 You: Short, cute, "buffed/lay-ered," 50, Hamilton. Me: Taller, red Polo shirt, jeans, 52, on way home from LA. Got separated after your smoke break. Want to meet again. @ 4103.

Matt B. at Long Drugs, Hillsdale
I always buy at Long Drugs to see if you are working. I finally got to know your name through your name tag. We exchanged smiles and would like to know more about you. © 4102.

24Hr Naut,
Sutter Street., Tue 5/22
You: Adorable black man, motor cycle. Me: white, blonde, 6', glasses. We left at the same time at 9:40pm. I wanted to introduce myself but was too shy. I haven't seen you there before, but I hope to see you again. Please call.

Metro, Tues 5/30, Tony
You were drinking Calistoga, me
wearing green shirt across the
bar. To shy to meet. Would like to
meet, now? (2) 4222.

Davies 5/18
You: Business suite, brown hair, sitting behind the orchestra. Me: Denim shirt and blue jeans, sitting in left terrace w/ a woman. Wanted to talk during intermission. Please call.

4200.

Desperately
Seeking Cute Guy
With brown hair blue sweater.
Your coat fell off bar stool in the
Midnite Sun Thur 5/11. Me tall
blonde, tan, green cap. Please
call. ② 4213.

The Hottest Guy In Town
Even the hottest guy in town is
not worth you risking your health
over. Play safe Protect yourself &
those you play with. Always wear
a condom when having anal sex,
& don't exchange bodity fluids. If
you're HIV+, don't panic, get early
treatment, talk to someone that
can help, & still play safe.

© SAFE.

Sun Tanning at Mission Dolores Park Monday 5/29, 3:00pm. You brown hair, great body, wine cap, green bike and blue back pack. Me: black hair, tan skin, wy goatee, blue shorts sitting behind you. I like you a lot, call.

Beaver & 15th, Hey Roger!
Jim here. Did you disappear from
Market Street or did I leave too
soon? Sure would like to get what
I asked for and what you
promised to deliver. \$\mathcal{C}\$ 4300.

Moose's Thurs 8/1/85, 7:30pm
You: In wheat shirt w/ brn hair, blue eyes dining w/ a friend looking at photos. Me next to you in pink shirt w/ woman in blue. We exchange glances in the mirror. Like to see you. Leave msg or call me! © 4302.

Hey! Scorpio!
Leave the bullshit for the bullring get into the Taurus with and Aquarius. Lets show 'em how it would be done! Love Ya!

4301.

Milke/Midnite Sun
We met Sunday 6/4 @ 5pm. You:
GWM, short blonde hair/goatee,
jean shorts. Your folks visiting
from Florida. we spoke of Ohio,
Venezuela & Florida. I'm the tall
Latino, red flannel. Lowed your
billingual charm! @ 4304.

Russ
18th Street by Cala Market, 6/6, 1:30pm. You blonde, me in my gym close. We spoke through the sun-roof of your car about Fed Exhiring practices. Want to do hiring practices. lunch. @ 4342.

You were blonde drinking Calistoga while leaning against DJ booth. Black male with goatee talking with long lost friend would love to meet you. Please call.

4343.

Handburger Mary's 5/28/San Jose
Your Albert, Spoke briefly during your show. Want more call mel 4303.

Eye Contact @ Le Salon On Polk
It happened Wed eve, June 1, You, slender AM, 5'11' in lite blue Levis. Me, 6'2'', 50yo, glasses & lite brown short beard. You went to tapes & I stayed with magazines. Too shy to say 'Hello'. Want to meet? Give a call.

② 4352.

Seeking Relationship M-M

Decent Looking, GWM, 28, HEV-I'm 6'5', 200*, relatively new to the scene but been around the block a couple of times. I'm inter-ested in starting slow, but the sky's the limit. Looks aren't as important as personality.

Masc. Latin Guy
Handsome blk guy, 35, 5'11',
180*, sm body, looking for masc.
Latin guy who smiles easily, kisses deeply, has a life, a hairy ass,
likes jazz and wants more than a
one niter. ◆ 410€.

Seeking Strong GBM
I'm 6'. 190*, 34, 1/2 Spanish,
1/2 Native American, very hand-some, masculine, muscular, enjoys beach, mountains and take working out serious. You 28-38, strong, handsome, masculine adventurous, enjoys outdoors, take working out serious, ND, HIV- @ 4107.

Looking For Witty, Healthy Top, SF GAM, GWM younger than I. We like weekend drinking, dinning, dates to wherever, sex, and romance LTR wanted by generous, loving bottom, GWM, early 50's, 5'11", 224*. © 4108.

Attn: 408 Area Coders
Deep throater needed. My place.
Laid back, black, HIV-, clean,
bridge player, 50's, stocky, retired,
would love to meet you. LTR possible. © 4110.

GWM, 215#, WeightlifterInterested in Karate and body building seeks bodybuilder +200# for friendship or possible relationship. **© 4108**.

Lonesome Senior
WM, retired, soft body, smooth, hairless, will suck your cock, day times are best. HIV-, your place only. © 4111.

GWM Sought By GAM
I'm 24, 5'8', 130*, good looking, sincere, and stable. I would like to meet guys around my age, in-shape, and have a good sense of humor for friendship 6 maybe more. Must be HIV-6 ND. Serious replies only.

© 4112.

Me: smart, funny, muscular, HIV-, 5'10', 165*, look 35, w/ thick healthy hair. You: smart, funny, muscular, HIV-, 28-40. 4126.

BART, Dntn Dakland, 5/15, 4-5pm
You: Green shirt, brown hair, blue(?) eyes, reading Melissa Ethridge article in Rollingstone. Me: muscular black man in a dark suit, reading "Jurassic Park." You were cute, we shared a look(?)

Extremely Goodlooking BM Well built, intelligent 25yo BM seeks very attr WASP. WM, 18-30, in shape, at least 510°, 160. Not looking for marriage, not looking for one night stand. Just be fun loving. © 4128.

Weekend Houseboy Wanted Do you enjoy serving a man? Walking around naked! Handsome top (41, white, tall, trim, HIV-) seeks muscular bot-tom for personal handsome, obe-dient, serious. NS/ND. @ 4130.

LTR W. X-USMC Guy
Wanted under 35, tight, tattooed
and trust worthy, drug-free and
employed. By 42yo, blonde hairy
HIV-, experienced, educated and
laid back Daddy bear type.

© 4138.

Cute Asian Submissive Bottom 25-40
GWM, 40, 5·5°, 130°*, HIV-seeks compatible mate for LTR w/ an established long term SF resident. My interests include travel, classical music, sci-fi, fantasy, friends, quiet eves at home in my upper Market Apt. N/A/D/S.

(**Q 4204.**

Dynamic, Committed, Deep Love & Happiness Sensitive, caring, mature, educated, disabled guy invites spiritual, caring, athletic, adventurous, young, warm guy with a big heart and a high self-esteem to enjoy deep loving committed monogamous relationship, @ 4205.

SF GAM Seeking GWM
SF GAM, 5'11', 160*, seeking
intelligent, bright, thoughtful,
humorous, romantic, mature, ND,
NS, HIV-, no facial hair, weight
proportional w/ height GWM.

4206.

Looking For Financially Stable Individual

To cuddle w/. I need someone to cuddle w/ keep me warm and love me forever.

4207.

Pamper Me
Lavish me w/ affection, treat me
to expensive restaurants, spoil me
w/ excursions. This 6', muscular,
42yo stud is ready. Are you?

4208.

Seeking Musc Black Guy I'm GWM, musc, 37, wishes to date gdlkng smooth musc black guy who is stable, sane. ② 4208.

Seeking Huge Nipples
Hot muscular 37, looking for musc guy w/ freaky huge nipples to date. Please be serious, honest. No games! © 4210.

New To SF
Tall goodlooking masculine & very well-built male seeks same.
I'm 42, 61', 195*, (IIIV) into body building, motorcycle & jeep trips, and macho lovin' w/ one intelligent together guy!

4211.

Want South American Under 35 I'm 40's, form USA, attractive, 175#, 5'11', professional, educat-ed, love sex, moving to SF in July. ② 4212.

Latino Romantic Looking for companion. I'm 30's, slim, honest, romantic and spiritu-al & friendly. You 30's, GWM, or Latino, honest, romantic, passion-

Orlando Tights Fetish GWM, professional in Florida has sensual fetish for the fell/look of nylon/lycra. Not into drag. Loves bay area & seeks friends, bicy-cling, ballet & kitties. © 4218.

I Have A Bear Magazine Look
GWM, 40, harry, balding with a western moustache. I'm 5°5°, 195°, dark brn hair. I'm looking for a guy 20 to 30 w/ attractive boyish looks for a possible relationship. I enjoy bicycling, walks, sci-fi, films, humor, safe versatile sex & cuddling.

€ 4217.

Dad Needs Bottom Son My arms hold what the world lacks. Me: attrac. GWM, 45, 65°. 280 #, football players build. You: attrac. GWM, 21-35, slim, smooth-moderate body hair w/ great buns. Sex: Ass-massage, lite spanking. Go

Simple Things in Life
GBM looking to share simple
things in life. A morning kiss,
good night hug, walk along the
beach. I'm 35, 6', 195#. © 4218

Serious Bottom seeks Serious Top Handsome GWM, HIV+, 6'1", 185*, 29. Tired of games and the bar scene. Looking for serious mate, (top pref) with facial hair, GWM, slender, HIV+, 6'1" or taller, 29-35yo. Friendship, poss relationship, (good heart required only).

4224.

ISO Romantic Black Top By handsome 34yo, Irish/Italian, 61°, 185, fit romantic, eager, for dating and more in the east bay. © 4225.

Italian Bear Dad
46yo, 6'. top, professional. Enjoys
art, music, movies, restaurants.
Looking to share a bottle of wine
in front of the fireplace w/ an
intelligent, sexy, smooth, trim
younger man. Non smoker.

4228.

Loves & Affection For-Older but not old. Hot top w/ great dick wants permanent friend. Any age ok. Be ready, will-ing, able for sex, fun, travel & all. Good body, 5'9", 150# of muscle. \$\to\$ 4227.

+ EWM Top, &F Highly prized by + GWM bottom. We are healthy, like drinking, din-ing, weekends and hot sex. Looking toward LTR. Me: incur-able romantic, generous Southerner, 54, 5'11', 222*.

Flerce/NU/+
HIV+, BM looking for you. If you posses an inner beauty and are attractive outwardly too (it helps) for fun times and possible something deeper? Lets get started, OK. Hurry I'm waiting for you.

4306.

Affairs of The Heart
GWM, early 40's, studly, hot &
Gdlkng seeks same for love commitment monogamy mandatory.
HIV+, healthy, leather men too!

(2) 4307.

Hot & Sexy Top

Mature but young with big tool, hard buns, good chest & abs, 59", 145*, muscular, masculine, blonde. Need LTR w/ any age bottom. @ 4308.

Where is the Passion?

Hot, long, wet, kisses, with 40yrs, GWM, bl/br, hainy, 5'87. 200*. Many interests, romantic, easy going, humorous, spiritual, seeks HIV*, N/S, guys who are down to earth. Great cook. **② 4310**.

Love/Remance

Have platonic lover. No passion, sex or romance. He knows I'm looking for someone to fill my needs. I am loving, helpless romantic, sexually open minded, 63°, 190°, br/gr, moustache, HIV+, smoker, a bottom with a caring heart, handsome, high voice, love to kiss and enjoy spontaneous love making. I wants voice, love to kiss and erjlyd sych taneous love making. I wants someone who can show me white he wants. Be handsome, trim to medium build, masculine, and well hung 7+.1 live in Redwood City lets share our need and bodies. Love is the Key.

4311.

Not Endowed Or A Greek God But healthy, fit, open minded, sta-ble, unaffected, nice guy and a great bottom. We are both HIV-, NS/ND, and I'm fair, smooth, youthful early 50's, and ready. 4312.

Permanent Threesome for Serious, Mature Man Gdlkg, GWCpl 50/40 both bearded, hairy, husky (210/230), HIV-, NS, ND, sk a third man to share our lives & home. Please be reliable, masc., HIV-, & sexually versatile. We have a big house w/ pool & spa in sunny E. Contra Costa. If you're ready to meet 2 great guys, call us. No age, race, lks or size restrictions (it's what's inside that counts). @ 4313.

Hairy Men
If your are hairy, gdlkg, 30's, tall, romantic with beard or goatee and like 40's, built, gdlkng, GWM with moustache, 5'10', 190#. I'm waiting for you.

Creative Sexy Male 33
Sensual, romantic, fun, fit, free-thinker, Attractive, MIV-, dark lirish descent, hot 6 versatile, br hair, goatee, nice hairy body, receding hairline, nice dick seeks sweet, smart, horny, handsome, fun, fit, love muffin 21-35 for dating and more! Hairy, holistic, creative, spiritual, musculay, modern, all pluses. @ 4315.

Alde-de-Camp SF top GWM Sought by bottom colonel. We like weekend romance, drinking, dining, good health. You: younger than me, want affection and LTR. Me: GWM, early 50's, 5'11", 223*.

4318.

GAM From Sacto Needs Big Cock 33, 5'9', 150'*, looking for GWM/GBM to give me more experience in being fucked by big dick. I travel to SF. Age doesn't matter. I'll open my hole for any-one. Very bottom. Smooth ass. I'll try anything.

GAM From Sacto

New York

10 years

11 years

12 years

13 years

14 years

15 years

16 years

17 years

18 years

18 years

19 years

19 years

19 years

19 years

10 years

11 years

11 years

12 years

13 years

14 years

15 years

16 years

17 years

18 years

18 years

18 years

19 years

19 years

10 years

I Care You Care
Would like to meet GWM, HIV,
40's. Know how to show love and
except it. Sincere, LTC, like to cuddle, enjoy each other, and doing
activities together.

4318.

Very good looking 38yo looks early 30's hot, clean-cut, fun, HIV-nice body, well endowed seeks 35-48, handsome, rugged easy going, well hung, passionate secure HIV- individual. © 4319.

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PERSONALS

Serious About LTR?
I'm looking for a caring, sensitive, HIV., GAM between 40-50 years old who wants to work on a LTR. Someone who is clear about what living with another person entails and who appreciated the completeness of sameness. I'm 43yo, HIV. GWM, professional, successful small business owner, active in social issues, bright, good sense of humor, strong sense of family, can be funky but generally too stable for my own good, 6', 200*, in that order of importance. (**O 4321.**

Mature Masculine Guy 48yo, GWM, NS, clean shaven, 5'11', 190*, gym toned body seeks younger guy for travel com-panion ship and sex. Not into bars or drugs. Rational safe sane and sensual. @ 4322.

Seeking Smart Boyfriend
Veracious, Taurus/Scorpio rising,
svette, 23, dk blonde/blue-gray,
full lips, welle-ndowed oral tip,
non-California native, 6M seeking
one affectionate, NS/ND, medi-um-to-very smooth, lean, grown
up GWM/GLM, 20/34, for eating, kissing trayelling talking ing, kissing, travelling, talking **4344**.

Excellent Catch
Me: very handsome, muscular,
masculine, sensual, extremely
romantic, br/br, stache, 28yo.
You: blonde, blue eyes, muscular,
masculine, facial hair, body hair,
romantic, stable. 4345.

I'm More brother
Than Daddy
More an equal than mentor. You look under 25, seeking monogemous LTR w/ intelligent, sometimes silly, sometimes intense 40yo, 5°107, 180°, br/br. All races welcome. © 4348.

Where Are You?
Attractive GWM, 5'8', 25, blonde seeks non-right. We are both physically fit, masculine and HIV-You: top. Me: bottom in shape only and under 35 please.

② 4347.

Seeking **Adventure** M-M

GWMI, 54ye, HW5'2', tall, 140#, short hair, blue eyes, mustache with strong sexu-al drive. Like my ass massage & spanked red!! My hair ass is alsessage tight suck my 7' cut cock & ball. I also like to suck then fuck my hot ass hard & slow. PS, your place or mine. @ 4320.

Masculine, Handsome,
Mode Hairy Top
Seeks Hot Boyl
I'm 37, 6', 215*, stache/goatee,
br/hz. UR 18-36, wht/Lat/Asian
W/ gr8 asst Gym bad, 60 looks.
HIV+, healthyl long hair, tan lines
a plus, plowable butt a must! LTR
or Fuck/Buddy, club boy or
Leather toy. Ø 4115.

On the Lookout For Hot Eurastan Boys!
Handsome masculine top, 37, 6', stocky(not falf) Sks hot boys 18-36, Keanu, Brandon Lee, Dean Cain drive me wild! RU a gym toned boy w/ fuckable ass, HIV+ and healthy? Do U luv 2B plowed by daddy/coach/bear vnoe? Fuck by daddy/coach/bear type? Fucl buddy or relationship? © 4118

Jockstrap Wrestling
Handsome, muscular GWM seeks
other built men for erotic
wrestling. Let's work up a sweat,
stiff cocks pressed hard against
each other, as we struggle for top.
Go ahead and accept my challenge, you won't be disappointed.

4117.

Well Hung Asian
Wants cute white men with n
ass. Toys & videos. Fun, fun,
all night long.

4118.

At Your Servicel
Expert, hassle free, laid back oral
service by hot Italian bottom.
Available days and evenings.
Seeking hot men to service and
drain. No reciprocation desired.
Straight and Bi men welcome.
Castro location. Call for description. © 4118.

Middle Age
Guy seeks straight acting stud
under 30 for all night sex adventures. UB smooth, clean shaven,
horny, IB dominant in shape clean
shaven and good for all night.
HIV-, non smoker, no drugs.

4125.

Alameda Action At Last
Hard, hot and juicy 9° hot rod
needs a few manly holes and/or
deep throats to pump. Early
morning and late evening sessions only. Direct contact (no car
phone, machines, pagers) hone, machines, pagers) required. **© 4131**.

Punchee Wanted
Looking for smooth muscular GM
who likes having their chest and
abs punched (respecting limits.)
I'm GWM, 41, 5'9', 175*, muscular and moderately hairy chest.
Let's get together for a little rough
housing. © 4132.

Blacks, Latino Bottom?
Black guy, 35, 5'10', 205*, well built, average hung, top; looking for a Black, Latino, or Mexican no-bull-shirbottom w/ a round but for some safe fucking, evenings and weekends. @ 4133.

Boy Needs?

26, GWM seeking buddies to roll around w/. I'm 5'10', 160, brn/grn, looking to get together day or nights for? Who knows what can happen. © 4134.

Pleasure

A.C. Size 11EEE you called but I did not get your phone *. Please call and I hope we get together.

(2) 4221.

Tired of the Same Die shit?
Do you dig heavy macho intense did not seek of phone ser? Do you dig j/o but meet fuckers/suckers? Like buddy it buddy action but meet top bottoms? do you dig getting wasted but meet ND? Lets party at your place late pm. ② 4228.

Do Me Right
Attractive, 37yo, 5'9", 165*, (hot
latin male versatile big uncut cock
and hot butt) seeks adventurous
fit hot looking studs 20's to 40's
for a full services. Big pecs a+,
masculine a must.

4 4228.

Latin/Hispanic Top Wanted With big uncut dick. GWM bottom, Ebay, HIV- Call for info. Want to service your cock in all types of ways. © 4230.

Will Worship Your Muscles Handsome GAM, muscular 5 10°, 172*, early 30's seeks body-builder/very buff for intense mus-cle worship and fantasies. 4231.

Double Adventure
In shape WM, 5'11", hung big, needs well built WM, hairy legs and big hairy bubble butt to eat and fuck. © 4232.

Topman For You Handsome, trim, GWM, early 30,5 62°, 180°, moustache, goatee, wants to fulfill your desires if you are attractive, 20's-30's and in shape. Versatile couple ok. © 4328.

South Bay Cock Sucker GAM, 35, 5°11°, 190*, blk, brn, likes, sucking cock during day time from 7am-2pm. @ 4327.

Seeking
Expert Oral Service
Sexy hairy bear, 43, 55', 135*, HIV-, w/ hot crotch seeks hungry talented buddy for long hot sessions of oral worship and service. Verbal, imaginative, dominant, sane and healthy. Marin can travel. © 4328.

HIV+, GBM in Good Physical Condition 59°, 150*, nice proportion slim built body. Med brown skin, clean cut hair, nice smile. Seeks to meet other's w/ similar physical cond. You don't have to be perfect not looking for a pin-up body type, but if you got it come on!!!

Have It His Way
Surrender control to this handsome Hawaiian/Latin hunk, 34
W/ smooth chiseled muscular
body-love to pump your face and
butt. Get tied up and used enthusiastically? He will make you cum
helplessly. You: cute, trim/muscular. Me: friendly, fun, hunky and
dominant. © 4338.

Asian Top With Big Cock (8 1/2 thick)

Handsome sexy Asian 26, 4'10' 115*. Love to fuck ass. HIV-GWM 18-38 bottom. © 4347.

The Hottest Guy in Town
Even the hottest guy in town is
not worth you risking your health
over. Play safe! Protect yourself @
those you play with. Allways wear
a condom when having anal sex,
& don't exchange bodily fluids. If
you're HIVH, don't panic, get early
treatment, talk to someone that
can help, & still play safe.

© SAFE.

Romantic Handsome
Puerto Rican Parapiegic
New to Bay Area, 43, SEP mustache, seeks fun w/ open minded
men who will dig my strong
upper body & skinny legs. You
attractive, slim, good kisser, over
35. All are welcome; especially
turned on by med heads Asians & turned on by red heads, Asians & blacks. **② 4348**.

Restraints
Is my fantasy yet to be explored.
You, dominant with toys, gloves, etc. Me, naked restrained in a vulnerable position for your pleasure.
35yo looking to fulfill this fantasy in S.J. area. Ø 4235.

Ritualistic Cock Worship Ritualistic Cock Worship Mainly int intense, heavy mutual dirty talk jerk off. Possible some oral (mostly me receiving)) while we are getting fucked up (hiare expenses 50/50). Your place, 10-11 pm. Not into videos, shave cocks. Let's put on our own show. Seeking guys very endowed, thickness more important than length. © 4238.

Tight Butt

In Sbay in desperate need of horny fingers, toys, tools, etc. Restrain me helpless and take your eager gloved fingers to a glory hole too tight to imagine. Then use your toys till erupt a load like you've never seen.

4237.

Latex Master Sought
Very furry bear cub, GWM, HIV+,
36, 5*10*, 200*, brry/blu, beard,
attooed, pierced. Latex novice.
Fantasy, head to toe latex action.
Also into leather, BD, CBT, TT,
pumbs, FF, Fr, Gr, WS, cuddling &
romance.
LTR possible!!!

Free Vacation w/ 3yo
July1st til 7-9th 95. All expenses
paid, no cash money young Asian
18-24 or smooth Caucasian.

(**) 4340.

Pleasurel

50's velvet, sizzling tongue, is ready for WM with big clean feet and cut meat. I will give you a world of pleasure. Hayward. © 4341.

Nilpples

South Bay Dude, 40's, 5'10'.

170*, in city regularly, must play with your nipples. No one can appreciate them the way I can. Let me make 'em sing for joy, Reciprocal great, but not necessary, I've a big dick & balls and am a south of market king of guy.

4349.

Daddy Will Train

Trim lad in the art of obedience thru bondage and discipline.

(2) 4350.

Other

Wedding Bells
Gay female seeks masculine gay
Asian or Caucasian male for marriage of convenience, suitable age
30-40. Call for details.

4124.

HIV+ Inmate Needs
Latters/Misits
I'm 27, 6'2', 175*, attractive
BiVM. I'm from Dallas and I have
no friends or family in California.
You: HIV+, male or female w/ a
heart. I get released in 4 months.
You & me 4 ever? ② 4138.

The Hottest Guy in Town
Even the hottest guy in town is
not worth you risking your health
over. Play safe! Protect yourself &
those you play with. Always wear
a condom when having anal sex,
& don't exchange bodily fluids. If
you're HIM-4, don't panic, get early
treatment, talk to someone that
can help, & still play safe.

© SAFE.

Affectionate Grandiather SF, GWM, 60's, slim build, 5'8'. balding, beard, seeks healthy, horny uncut grandson who likes displaying his jo style as well as enjoys basic mutual oral techniques. Ø 4351.

Couples

Two Saxy, Men Looking For Action W/ Studs Ready to share great sex with hot 20-40 yo, were 30/35 fit, handsome, pos and neg. Into sale 3 or 4 ways. Arm pits, jo, blow jobs, possible covered butt action. Professional novices us/you. © 4238.

Eyeglass Stems

36yo, GWM, really gets turned on and orally submissive watching man casually sucking on eyeglass stems, pens etc. All ages, types.

② 4137.

Prepples/Sweater types
Attractive, 37yo, GLM, seeking
dominant young preppie/
sweater/repub looking WMs who
want to kick back & get total oral
service.
4138.

Live Outside Of San Francisco?

I want to meet men who live outside the city to visit. I am seeking new adventures, new environments, new friends. I am 6°, 175*, muscular & friendly. Give a call. © 4201.

Understand? New Respondi Affectionate top, GWM, 38, 56°, 130°, small of stature with com-manding presence. Seeks GBM bottom willing to explore BD, CB6T and light SM in a part time LTR must be eager to please and in need of attention.

EWM, 52ye Likng for EBM
This 52 yr old GWM wants to feel
a hot GBM tongue in my hole;
would and love to be slowly
fucked as well by GBM. Concord,
Walnut Creek Areas only.

② 4203.

Here is My Fantasy
I lay naked on my bed you walk in
(door unlock) with a hard on. You
grease my man's hole and fuck
my ass. Age race unimportant.
Afro-American men welcome.

-900-844-222

Still Only 98¢ Per Minute To Respond To Ads!

Available Only in the Bay Area on Touch-Tone Telephones. You Must Be at Least 18 Y/O to Call.

Santa Rosa Area GWM, 5'6", 150#, attractive, hairy, br/bl, loves to totally wor-ship your hot body from head to toe. Also open to new experi-ences, I get off by getting you off. All races welcome, uncut a major plus.

4233.

Black Top 6', 200*, 46yo, into wht or latin pig bottoms 30's to 50's massage aroma tit play moustache a+. Be eager to please. ② 4234.

Affairs Of The Heart GWM
Hot Lather guy sks same to share
life focused on love monogamy is
mandatory. HIV+ & healthy. I am
hot & studly. 4308.

Looking For Asian Dick Asian seeks Asian top to grease up my butt and plow it. You: HIV-under 35, ht/wt prop, hot, horny and ready. My butt is ready for your dick. © 4324.

Free Quality Massage
For hot young guys who take
good care of themselves. I'm 41,
6'2", masculine, 175*, goodlooking. A safe pleasurable experience. Table. Sincere.

4325.

The Hottest Guy in Town

The Hottest Guy in Town Even the hottest guy in town is not worth you risking your health over. Play safel Protect yourself & those you play with. Always wear a condom when having anal sex. & don't exchange bodily fluids. If you're HIV+, don't panic, get early treatment, talk to someone that can help, & still play safe.

Mutual Dildo Pleasure

Mature, stocky, attractive, hung, GBM seeks other stocky, heavy-set, fat GM for a long satisfying dildo connection. ② 4332. Leather Tops/Bottom
36yo, male has round butt for slings, toys, and hands seeking couples or person for hours of leather sex, hot talk, videos, and more.

4328.

"Great Sex in San Leandre"

36, 6', 180 *, HIV. southern man into men who luv to have long, hot, sweaty sex or for those who haven't much time, you wont be disappointed. Call me, let's talk.

Chasers
You're intelligent funny, sensual and you admire big men. Me handsome GBM, 40's, 5'9" 220*, let's create friendship and hot sex. © 4334.

Chasers
You're intelligent funny, sensual and you admire big men. Me: handsome GBM, 40's, 5'9", 220*, let's create friendship and hot sex.

C 4334.

People Tell Me I'm Blunt 30yo, brn/bl, 6'17, 185*, looking for someone to have sex with on a regular basis. You: under 6', under 40 and preferably a top. I like The Dead and hot sex. (2) 4336.

Hot Asian Top Seeks Tall GWM Me: 35, 140*, 5'7", smooth skin very nice body. Looking for GWM over 6' tall who enjoys good time, good sex. 4338.

Vincut Top

Nice uncut dick on a goodlooking
lean, trim, healthy, HIV-, GWM
looking for a hungry, non-encum-bering bottom. Just plain sex or long-term possible. I'm open.

Fetishes

Soeking African Queen
Beefy gdlking football players
build wants to be dominated by
nubian goddess. Hopefully you
are dark skinned, uncut, wellhung, effeminate, mature and
serious. © 4120.

Feet First
Lifelong excitement looking at £
fantasizing about men's bare feet.
Very aroused, sensually \$6 sexually by kissing, licking, smelling
caressing bare feet in reciprocal
action \$6\$ jo. Gdlking \$6\$. Bay, GWVM,
\$7\$", 140*, tan, bearded, NA, ND.

\$\tilde{\Phi}\$ 4121.

Spanking Top
Good looking 30yo, 6, 175#. You:
Strip down to shorts, stand at attention, then over my knee for good old fashion butt warming, 18-30 only. @ 4122.

Lingerie & Dildo
Looking for a BM who likes playing w/ lingerie and/or dildo. I am an HIV+, GWM, 49, trim beard.

② 4123.

Obedient Foot Licker 6'1", 180*, good shape, late 40's man enjoys foot worship. © 4135.

HIS WE

Wanna Submit?

Send calendar listings to:

Bay Area Reporter 395 9th Street San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Thursday before

Friday 16

Beyond Bagdad
Hit lesbian musical comedy romp,
extended Thurs-Sat. thru 6/24.
\$12-18. 8pm. Theatre Rhinoceros,
2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Cathexis

New work by Alan Disparte and Dylan McConnell, reception tonight. Thru 7/13. Figure 5 Gallery, 3491 19th St. **841-8042**.

A Connecticut
Yankee
Rodgers and Hart's '20s musical
launches 42nd St. Moon's
Hammerstein & Hart Festival. Fri.
at 8pm, Sat. at 3&7pm, Sun. at
3pm thru 6/25. \$15. New
Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van
Ness. 861-8872.

Contemplating Queer Art

Group show of gay visual artists, reception tonight, 6-9pm. Thru 7/19. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. **883-2891**.

Country Nights

Women's Country Western dancing. No smoke, alcohol or scents. \$7-10. Class 7pm, dance 8:30pm. Montclair Women's Club, 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (510) 428-2144.

Dirty Dreams of a Clean Cut Kid

Henry Mach and Paul Katz's award-winning musical returns: four men wait for their HIV results. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm thru 7/2. \$12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **861-7833**.

Girth & Mirth Club

Club for chubby gay men and their admirers, 19th anniversary party, 8pm. Call for info. **824-0260**.

The Kinsey Sicks

Dragapella BeautyShop Quartet. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. **861-7833**.

Lesbian/Gay Chorus

17th annual pride concert. \$15-50. 8pm. Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness. 881-7087.

The Lion in Winter

Network Theatre Co. presents this clash of wits between King Henry II and his wife, Eleanor of Aquitaine. Thurs-Sun. at 8pm thru 6/18. \$20-25. Alcazar Theatre, 650 (510) 582-4847.

Lines **Contemporary** Ballet

Three new ballets by choreographer Alonzo King. Thru 6/18. \$10-27. 7:30pm. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. **378-ARTS**.

Mug Shots

New work by playwright Margery Kreitman in the studio lab. \$5. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center for the Perf. Arts, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Nude Coffee

All-female comedy group from Chicago. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 6/24. \$10. Exit Theater, 156 Eddy St. (510) 548-0624.

Oueer Bock

Pansy Division, Tribe 8, Enrique and the Hail Marys. \$6. 9pm. Transmission Lounge, 11th & Folsom.

Art by Andrea Bowers, Mil Coolidge, Susan Lutz and other



Fri.-Sun. 12-6pm thru 7/9. Victoria Room, 180 6th St. **255-0364**.

Michelangelo Signorile

Discussing his new book *Outing Yourself*, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. **431-0881**.

The Purple Moon Dance Co. presents a work-in-progress exploring the essence of lesbians and women of color. Fri. & Sat. at 8:30pm thru 6/17. \$10 advance, \$12 door. Footwork, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

Saturday 17

Bowl-A-Thon

"Score a Strike, Spare a Life" AIDS Bowl-A-Thon benefits AIDS Project of the East Bay. 12-4pm. Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo, Albany. (510) 834-8181.

▼ Saturday

Kathy Sledge appears as part of Gay Pride Weekend at Club Universe.

Gay Comedy

Extravaganza

Tom Ammiano's 10th annual gay comedy fest: Karen Ripley, Susie Berger, Doug Holtsclaw, Danny Williams, Brian Freeman, Joan Jett Blakk, Hank Donat. \$15.7:30

8 9:30pm. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell. 885-0750.

Gay Comedy Night

Matina Bevis, Darrick Richardson, Danny Williams. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 381-7933.

Kielbasia, Queen of Poland

A drag fairy tale of family roots and fatty foods, written and performed by Matthew Morin. Sat. thru June. \$5-10. 8pm. The Diesel Cathedral, 3178 17th St. #2. 552-5006.

in Heaven

1995 Gay Prom in Santa Rosa. Info, call **1-800-508-3022**.

One Scary Woman

▲ Monday

Paintings by Timothy Cummings, part of **Horror Show** at Place Pigalle.

'70s and early '80s. \$10. 278

Progressive Lesbians and Gays "Speak out on confronting the right wing," includes Kenya Briggs, Angie Fa, Pat Norman, others. 12-5pm. Local 250 Hall, 973 Market. 861-0318.

Puttin' On the Ritz

Dance for women produced by Bay Area Career Women, features Linda Tillery, MC Mimi=Freed. \$50. Gift Center Pavilion, 888 Brannan. 485-5383.

The Fnd

A warehouse dance party benefit for Frameline, with Drag King Contest. \$10. 10pm-6am. 938

Western

Star Dancers
Pre-parade dance with
Kris Jensen, lesbian
caller from



DJs Aaron O., Page Hodel, David Harness; guest Kathy Sledge ("We Are Family"). \$10. 9:30pm-7am. 177 Townsend. **885-5241**.

Dyke March

Lesbians, bisexual women and their women friends: 3rd annual march for human rights. Speakers Sharon Bottoms and April Wade. 7pm, Castro & Market.

Zachary Barton's cabaret jam on the theme of feminine wiles. Fri. & Sat. at 10pm thru June. \$10. Sky Room, Eichelberger's, 2742 17th St. **883-4177**.

Pride of the Eighties

Dance Party, benefit for Project Open Hand, new wave music, late

Albuquerque. \$7. 7:30pm. St. Paulus Church, Gough and Eddy.

Wo/Man & Nature

5th Annual Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Visual Arts Exhibition, thru 6/30. Galeria Museo, Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, 2868 Mission. **821-1155**.

Sunday 18

GAY PRIDE DAY

Building Bridges

'Israeli and Palestinian Artists Speak' and 'Children's Art for Peace: Arab and Israeli Children Speak.' Sun-Thurs. thru 9/21. \$3. The Jewish Museum, 121 Steuart. 543-8880.

Club Skirts
Gay Pride Party, Chastity Bono signs her coming-out Advocate piece in VIP room, Club Touche 9pm, \$7, 6pm-3am, 300 DeHaro. 337-4962.

Gay Pride Parade
Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community comes out
and celebrates. Begins 11am, 8th
8 - Market, proceeds to
Embarcadero. 884-FREE.

Lou Harrison. Gary Snyder

Harrison's "La Koro Sutro" for mixed chorus and American Gamelan; Snyder reading recent poetry, \$25. 7pm. Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. (510) 853-0898.

La Kiubstituta

Dragbar & cabaret in new location. Sundays, 10pm-2am, show at 11pm. \$3. La India Bonita, 3089 16th St.

Living Sober Gay Pride Dance AA and AlAnon mtg, 3pm. Dance, 4pm. \$10-15. 401 Van Ness. 978-2478.

Megadance Marathon

Parade afterparty dance. Doors open 4pm. 540 Howard.

Pleasuredome
DJ Buck, Kathy Sledge. \$10.
Doors open 6pm. 177 Townsend.
885-5258.

Pre-Parade Brunch Alice B. Toklas Lesbian/Gay Dem. Club. \$35. 8:30-10am. Kassman Piano, 131 Franklin.

Queer Refocusing
14 gay & lesbian SF photogra-phers present a group show. Thru 6/30. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7833.

Queer Unplugged
In-studio performances of acoustic music by gay and lesbian musicians, including Pansy Division, Elin Jr., Rashida Oji, Azucar y Crema. 7pm. KPFA-FM 94.1.

Monday 19

Climax

Celebration of Climate Theatre's 10th anniversary includes Fratelli Bologna, Annie Sprinkle, Helen Shumaker, more. \$15-50. Reception 6pm. Show, 8pm. Cowell Theater, Fort

Gay Comedy Open Mike M.C. Marilyn Pittmian. Aspiring queer comics sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 881-7833.

Gay Pride
Art Exhibit
Levi Strauss & Co. Gay Employee
Assn. presents paintings and
drawings by Cuban arist Juan
Alonso, as well as by Bay Area
lesbian and gay artists. Thru
6/23. Levi Strauss HQ, 1155
Battery, 544-4022.

Horror Show

Twisted painting and prints by Timothy Cummings and Jim Winters. Thru 7/5. Place Pigalle, 520 Hayes. **552-2671**.

Jim James
Photography from Gay Pride parades, street fairs and Wigstock. Thru June. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 884-7854.

Jason Medier

Bean and noodle portraiture dis-plays at Just Desserts, 3735 Buchanan, thru 6/27. New work depicting Carol Channing in yarn, part of "Art: The Great American Pastime" at George Krevsky Fine Art, 77 Geary.

Watercolors

Watercolor painters Richard Bolingbroke and Ray Monteleone exhibit thru 6/25 at Sweet Inspiration, 2239 Market.

Tuesday 20

Interim Portraits and Figures

Photographer Bill Jacobson's por-traits address themes of memory and loss during plaguetime. Also: "Duane Michals: Questions Without Answers." Tues.-Sat., 11am-5:30pm thru 7/1. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

Lowbrow Art d'Elégance

Paintings by self-proclaimed show-off cartoonist* Robert Williams. Tues.-Sun. thru 7/2. Walter McBean Gallery. San Francisco Art Institute, 800 Chestnut. 771-7020.

Male Figure

DrawingClassical nude modeling by Rick May, hosted by Mark I. Chester. 7pm. 1229 Folsom. **821-8294**.

Buske Tommy Broadway street ent times th Golden G Market. 7

Galaxy

New play of future at 8pm I Hansberry 392-440

An Ide

Lesbi: Open

Scream Against the Sky

"Japanese Art After 1945" Large survey of Japanese avant-garde art. Thru 8/27, call for times and admission. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. and Center for the Arts at Yerba Buena Gardens, 701 Mission. 357-4000 and **978-2700**.

Virgin Territory
Editor Shar Rednour and contribu-tors read true stories of first-time lesbisex, free. 8pm. Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia. 974-8880.

Word Play

Works in metal, glass and paper by Nick Agid, with *Captions*, works on canvas by Emilie Clark. Tues.-Sat. thru 7/1. Morphos Gallery, 49 Geary. **338-1438**.

Wednesday 21

After Art

Rethinking 150 Years of Photography," an exhibition of 200 images. Tues.-Sun., 11am-5pm thru 7/9. \$4. Ansel Adams Center, 250 4th St. **495-7000**.

Berkeley of Oscarv life. Tues thru 7/ Addison (510) 84 Kingfi Marlane which are adopts a very of 8:30pm, 9 6/25. \$1 Bldg. D, F



Buskers

Tommy Tune stars in the pre-Broadway musical about London's street entertainers, plays various times thru 6/25. \$15-62.50. Golden Gate Theatre, Taylor at Market. 778-1898.

Galaxy Date 2022

New play exploring sexual politics of future opens tonight.Tues.·Sun. at 8pm thru 7/1. \$16. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter. 892-4400

Cay Ska29Rink full of queers on rollerskates. \$5 includes skates rental. 8-10:30pm. Rolladium Roller Rink, 363 North Amphlett, San Mateo. 1-800-473-8658.

An Ideal Husband

Berkeley,Rep Theatre's production of Oscar Wilde's play about public life. Tues-Sun. at various times thru 7/16. \$28-32.50. 2025 Addison St., Berkeley. (510) 845-4700.

Marlane Meyer's comedy in Which an aging photographer adopts a young hustler, to the dismay of his dog. Wed-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 2 or 7:30pm thru 6/25. \$17-23. Magic Theatre, Bldg. D, Fort Mason. 441-8822.

Lesbian & Gay Open Reading

Artwork by David Maxim uses male imagery. Wed.-Sat. 12-5pm thru 6/26. Space 743, 743 Harrison. 777-8080.

No Bottom Line

Erin Blackwell, Margaret Crane, Roberto Friedman, Glen Helfand, Kevin Killian, David Larsen and Wayne Smith read, free. 7:30pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0881.

Rocket to the Moon

Aurora Theatre Co. presents Clifford Odets' play directed by Joy Carlin. Wed.-Sun. thru 6/25. \$16-18. 8pm. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. (510) 843-4822.

Thursday 22

Alter Altar
Alternative queer show of ritual objects and installation. Thurs.-Sat. thru 7/15. Collision, 417 14th St. 431-4074.

Bingo Gay bingo benefits Coming Home Hospice, every Thurs. \$12. 6pm. Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond St. **241-0425**.

Mel Chionglo's Midnight Dancers screens Friday night at the Castro during the San Francisco International Lesbian & Cay Film Festival.

Cleveland Raining

Thick Description and the Asian American Theatre Co. present Sung J. Rno's apocalyptic come-dy about a Korean American fam-ily lost in America. Thurs-Sun. thru 7/2. \$12-16. 8pm. Asian American Theatre Center, Arguello at Clement. 751-2500.

Forever Jung

John Maxwell Taylor's one-man drama explores the life of psy-chologist Carl Gustav Jung. Thurs-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 6/25. \$11-15. Bayfront Theater. Bldg. B, Fort Mason. 392-4400.

ay and Lesbian

Pesistance
In the Nazi Era; Luma Nichol recounts the hidden history of gay resistance to fascism. Radical Women, dinner, 6:45pm, \$5; talk, 7:30pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia. 864-1278.

to Chaos

ing and mating game of urban girls. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3pm thru 6/25. \$13-15. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. **861-8972**.

Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 6/24. \$10-13. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 881-8972.

The Hose Tatto

Actors Theatre of SF revives the Tennessee Williams classic. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 7/8. \$16-18. 533 Sutter. 296-9179.

in Night School

Charlie Varon's comic solo performance returns. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun, at 7:30pm thru 6/25. \$10-15. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia. **841-0235**.

Straight
Parents/Gay
Children
Bob Bernstein, Nat'l Vice Pres. of
P-FLAG, reads, free. 7:30pm.
Modern Times, 888 Valencia.
282-8246.

Warren Sonbert

Cinematheque's screening of Sonbert's films, including Carriage Trade. \$6. 7:30pm. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 558-8128.

Way Out West

Artfull Circle Theatre remounts its original comedy musical with Ann Drogynous as Mae West, Mark Sargent as W.C. Fields. Thurs. at 8pm, Fri. & Sat. at 88 10pm thru 7/22. \$15. The 450 Geary Theatre. 821-5455.

Women With Balls

Showcase for women stand-up comics, every Thurs. 8pm. Cat's Grill and Alley Club, 1190 Folsom. 431-3332.

Joseph E. Young

Mixed media paintings and drawings, including the "I Love You Homophobia" series. Thru 7/26. Atrium Gallery, 901 Market. 399-8518.

▼ Friday



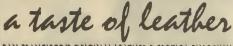
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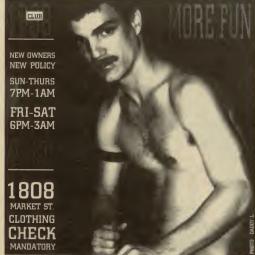
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PAGE 84-BAY AREA REPORTER-June 15, 1995

BAY AREA REPORTER

MR. MARCUS

Omaha's Jim Gau Wins **Desert/Plains Drummer Title**

our men from the newly created Desert/Plains
Drummer Region competed in Omaha, Neb.,
last Saturday night, June 10, in the second of 11
regional contests that will send aspirants to the
1995 International Mr. Drummer contest in San
Francisco on Saturday, Sept. 23.
Since the Great Plains and the Southwest regions
were combined (allegedly for this year only), equal representation of the two regions produced a whopping nine
judges. With only four contestants, the average pre-judge
ing scenario for each was over 30 minutes long – the

ing scenario for each was over 30 minutes long - the most thorough interviews I have ever seen in all my years in this racket.

most thorough interviews I have ever seen in all my years in this racket.

Of course, the soon-to-be-dowager IM Drummer, Keith Hunt, was on the panel, with Jim Sterba of Des Moines, Joey Kraley of Kansas City, Mr. Southwest Drummer '94 Bob Michaels of Las Vegas, Mr. Great Plains Drummer '94 Mike Cox of St. Louis, and Pat Phelan and Bob Ewing, both of Omaha. I was pleased to serve as the head judge once again. The judges showed a flair for ingenuity and originality with their probing questions – it was very enlightening.

The pre-judging took place on Saturday morning, and that night at the Midwest's premier nightclub, The Max, the show opened on time with a fast-paced number which included all four contestants and a writhing Dustin Logan, assisted by Amy Marie Meek and Cindy Bookout, The act wowed the crowd and served as a catalyst for the rest of the evening – one which included only one 10-minute intermission interspersed with the jock appearances, speeches of contestants and leather jock appearances, speeches of contestants and leather VIPs, the question-and-answer portion, and two drag numbers by the vivacious Monica West. By 11:25 p.m., it was over.

it was over.

This was a no-nonsense production featuring contestants Jim Gau (Mr. Nebraska Drummer of Omaha), Chris Reynolds (Mr. Silver State Drummer from Las Vegas), Dean Galloway (Mr. Missouri Drummer) and Bruce Towe of Des Moines. They performed without a hitch — imaginative fantasies, meaningful speeches, innovative jock wear (one with at least 80 pounds of heavy-duty chain wrapped around his body) and quick thinking in the onstage Q&A portion.

When all the votes were tallied by Dick ("The Legs") Brown, the results were: second runner-up, Bruce Towe;

When all the votes were tallied by Dick ("The Legs") Brown, the results were: second runner-up, Bruce Towe; first runner-up, Chris Reynolds; and Mr. Desert/Plains Drummer (from Omaha itself!), Jim Gau. The place erupted. All of Jim's 6'3", 260 lb. frame will come to San Francisco to compete for Intl. Mr. Drummer 1995. It was bedlam at The Max after the announcement to the mostly Omaha audience, and for Jim (who was Mr. Omaha Drummer last year), it was much, much lovelier the second time around!

And lastly, no production can be a success without

the second time around!

And lastly, no production can be a success without countless volunteers, and even though Dustin Logan is no stranger at producing events, his executive director/right-hand person, Jeannie Moe (assisted by Rick Gannon), proved to be versatile, creative, adept and a perfectionist – much like our own Audrey Joseph. Hey, what a team they would make!

As for local "color" in Omaha, I could hardly ignore the Tour. The control of the country of the

As for focal "color" in Omana, I could narraly Ignore the Town Terror, a dude named Royal Bush (or is it Royal "Flush"?), an individual who commands attention (loud!) wherever he goes and can dish with the best (in Omaha, that is!). I can't wait till he comes to Faghdad by the Bay and meets such personalities as Jacqui Jewels, Don "Ho" Tse and Rude Paul. I daresay, the "lengua a lengua" will be trieved. lengua" will be vicious. By the way, lengua means "tongue" – you know, like mano a mano!



Jim Gau (Mr. Nebraska Drummer) of Omaha won out over three other contestants to win the Mr. Desert/Plains Drummer '95 title in Omaha last Saturday night, June 10, at The Max. He will compete for the International Mr. Drummer title in San Francisco in September.

Onward in the '95 Mr. Drummer Odyssey. Next weekend I travel to Atlanta for the Mr. Southeast Drummer '95 contest. I'll bring you all the dish from down South, y'all!

Sexually explicit

Hey, Mark I. Chester is getting ready to have his Eighth Annual Sexart 4 studio show in his digs at 1229 Folsom during Leather Pride Week in September. He's looking for radical sexually explicit art work in almost all mediums for the show. Make your proposals by sending a tight-knit group of 6-10 images with a similar technique, style or subject matter in slides, work prints, etc. to Mark I. Chester, P.O. Box 422501, SF, CA 94142. Prospectus obtainable by sending SASE to same address. Prospectus obtainable by sending SASE to same address or make an appointment by calling 292-3223. Deadline:

or make an appointment by calling 292-3223. Deadline: Sept. 1.

The AIDS Emergency Fund got 300 feet of the Stonewall '94 Rainbow Flag, and they need people to carry it in next Sunday's parade to collect money. Meet at Grove and Larkin at 1030, and have a fanny pack and gloves. To register or for more info, call (510) 655-4486. They need about 200 people, so rush to their aid!



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hoto: Mr. Marcu

BERKELEY

Celebration! IMsL. Cindy Bookout (L.) and Amy Marie Meek (far R.) express their joy to Jim Gau, the new Mr. Desert/Plains Drummer, last Saturday night, June 10, in Omaha.

I got a call from someone who writes for the *New York Native* inquiring about the Phoenix Uniform Club's Uniform & Leather Ball at the Green Room in the Veteran's War Memorial Bldg, on Saturday night, June 17, 1900-2300.

People from around the world into leather and/or uniforms will be there to hear Gail Wilson belt out some popular tunes with City Swing. This is the premier leather/uniform party, so rush to the Leather Zone, Mr. S, Image Leather

and Worn Out West to get the \$35 advance tickets. It's \$45 at the door; the price includes an always sumptuous buffet and an open bar. In San Jose, tix available at Leather Masters. Don't miss this one! Since I'll be in Atlanta, I'll miss it all, but I can guarantee you'll have a blast at the Uniform & Leather Ball!

The Dishcovery Channel

Coupla weeks ago, I reported that 1995 Dyke Mommy Lady Hilary Dwyer had her title vest stolen from her car (rats!). Well, would you believe an alert clerk on Haight Street confiscated the vest when an errant individual tried to hock it at a used clothing store? La Dwyer has her vest, and all's well with the world. Please, please don't leave your leather in your vehicle(s)! There's a \$1 fee to check your gear at the SF-Eagle! Remember that!

And International Mr. Cheeks &

And International Mr. Cheeks & Chaps reports that his recent fundraiser at the Eagle raised \$1200. He didn't say whether or not St. Clair Adams showed up!



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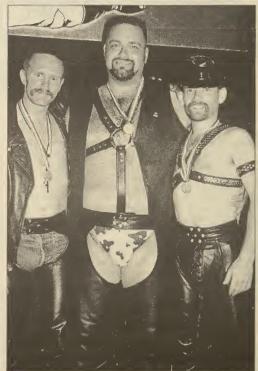


Photo: Mr. Marcus

Mr. Desert/Plains Drummer '95 finalists in Omaha last Saturday night (L. to R.): Bruce Towe (Des Moines, Iowa), second runner-up; Jim Gau (Omaha, Neb.), the winner; and Chris Reynolds (Las Vegas, Nev.), first runner-up.









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MR. MARCUS

Eventures in Leather

Unless otherwise indicated, all phones listed are in the (415) area code.

Thursday, June 15
Final spot on the Eagle's 1996 Bare Chest Calendar goes to a lucky contestant tonight as Mr. December is up for grabs. Win \$100 and do your part for the AIDS Emergency Fund. On June 29, all 12 winners will compete for the cover.

A show and beer bust at a reception for IMSL. Clindy Bookout for only \$5 tonight at Renegades Bar in San Jose, Help welcome the big kahuna of female leatherdom between 2000 and 2200, and support the IMSL. Fund. This is an E-event so bring your tickets.

Friday, June 16
Knights of Malta MC beer bust at the Eagle tonight from 2000 to 2300, with \$2 hot dogs being sold/served from 2200 to 2400. Only \$6.
Free anonymous HIV testing for any and all at 933 Harrison (upsteris) by Blow Buddies and AIDS Health Project from 2200 until half-past midnight.

Weekend, June 16-19

The third regional Mr. Drummer contest takes place all this weekend to find Mr. Southeast Drummer in Atlanta. Meet 6 greet on Friday at Backstreet Bar picking the 1995 Drummer Boy on Saturday; and Mr. Southeast Drummer on Sunday night. The winner(s) will be here in September for the finals.

Saturday, June 17

Uniform and leather mavens from around the world will be at the Phoenix Uniform Club's annual Uniform & Leather Ball in the Green Room at the Veteran's War Memorial Bldg. from 1900 to 2300. Tix are \$35 advance/\$45 door and available at the Leather Zone, Mr. S. Image Leather, Worn Out West and in San Jose at Leather Masters. Half the proceeds go to the AIDS Emergency Fund. Gail Wilson and City Swing entertain, and the price includes the buffet dinner and cocktails! Always a winner!

Earlier in the day, The Ring presents 'What To Do

includes the outlet diffield and cooked a winner!

Earlier in the day, The Ring presents "What To Do After You Wrap the Mummy" by Joseph Bean from 1300 to 1500, Call 522-9697.

If you're in Washington, D.C., you could check out the Mr. D.C. Drummer soiree at the DC-Eagle tonight, presented by the Potomac MC. The winner will compete at the Mid-Atlantic Drummer contest at the Baltimore Eagle on July 15.

Bears of SF are having a beer bust at the Lone Star Saloon this afternoon from 1500 to 1900 for only \$6 to benefit Bear Rendezvous next February.

Sunday, June 18
Our annual Alphabet Soup Parade begins at Civic Center around noon. I'll be in Atlanta, but be sure to watch for the Leather Pride float. Happy Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day!
'Gays on Parade' party at the Edge Bar immediately after the parade and whatever celebrations you find along the way.

Wednesday, June 21
Golden Gate Guards MC beer bust at the Eagle tonight from 2000 to 2300 for only \$6. Meet and greet on Hump Day this week with a fun group of club guys.
Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison cavort tonight. You know the rules: no cologne. You must wear boots; leather preferred. Don't be embarrassed by trying to get in without following the codes.

Friday, June 23

Ms. SF Leather "B.J." will again attempt to hold her Blackmail Photo party at the Eagle, with a beer bust from 2000 to 2900 for 56 to benefit her travel fund . Looks like fun, so don't miss it!

Tom of Finland Foundation presents the "Butch Ball II" at Irving Plaza in New York City. Tix are \$36 advance/\$45 at the door if available. Call (22) 307-717 to charge or Irving Plaza ticket office [212] 777-6500. New York's parade is on Sunday, June 25.

Saturday, June 24
Remember David Bandy's big 'The Mothership Arrives' fete in LA way back in 1979? Well, Steve Troy and Dance on Productions present Dance on Los Angeles tonight with 'The Mothership Returns' at the spectacular new Los Angeles Convention Center. A benefit for AmFar, tix are \$75, and there may still be some \$200 VIP tix available.

Over \$200,000 has already gone into the lighting and sound system there alone. The toll-free number is (800) 429-8747. They blitzed SF last weekend with 30 Felcon models and filer/cards, so I'm sure there will be more than the 300 San Franciscans previously announced as attending!

Sunday, June 25
Pride parades in Seattle, Los Angeles and New York.
A Father's Day beer bust at the SF-Eagle from 1500 to 1800 benefits the Godfather Service Fund. Only \$8 and a big auction.

Thursday, June 29
Almost all 12 winners of the bare chest contests will compete to see who will be on the cover of the 1996 calendar; always a fun night. Action at 2220—and may the best chest win!



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SWEET LIPS

Alexis Miranda, **Empress Ginger and Others Round Out Pride Celebrations**

t's Gay Pride time again! Naturally, the Giraffe Video Lounge and Kimo's will host postparade dancing, so please join us along the Great White Way (Polk St.) on the 18th for some fun in the sun.

following Parade and Post-Gay Parade events will be held Penthouse Kimo's Showroom at Pine and Polk Streets: On June 16 (9 p.m.), join us for the fabulous Alexis Miranda Show; on the 17th (9 p.m.) Barbq Hayes will present a stunning salute to the Empress XIX Ginger; and on Tuesday, June 20 (7:30 p.m.), Kimo's will present a nutritional research project and AIDS conference. (This one's important. Please help get the word out.)

Coming Soon to Kimo's: It's the fabulous San Diego Empress Nicole Show,

which plays the Penthouse Showroom for one performance only on Friday, July 28. You'll remember that this is the pay-off of that infamous Superbowl bet that Nicole and Kimo made a loooooooong time ago. Make your reservations early as this is sure to be a packed house.

Our good friend Lance Cartwright of Portland stopped in last week on his way back from Florida and New Orleans, where he had a three-hour lay over, but no lay. Better luck next time, queen.

After all the Gay Pride hoo-ha, come by and help celebrate Roy Bell's life at "Company" Cocktail Lounge, 1319 California Street on Saturday, June 24th (3 p.m.). All of Roy's old friends will be there, so come on down and join in the memories and the



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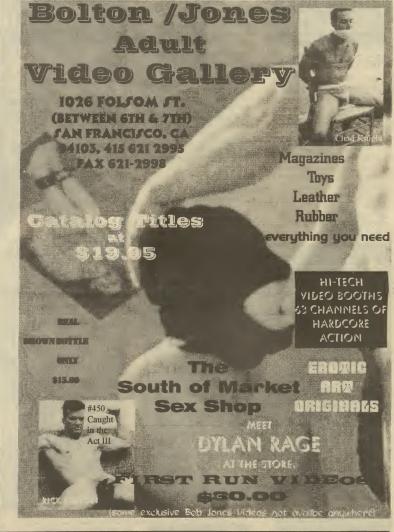
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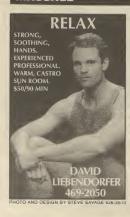
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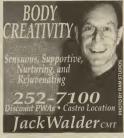




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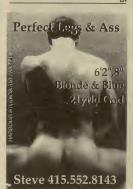
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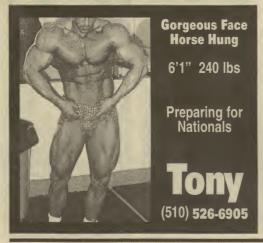
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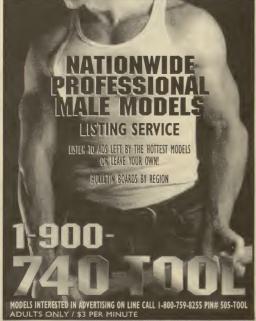
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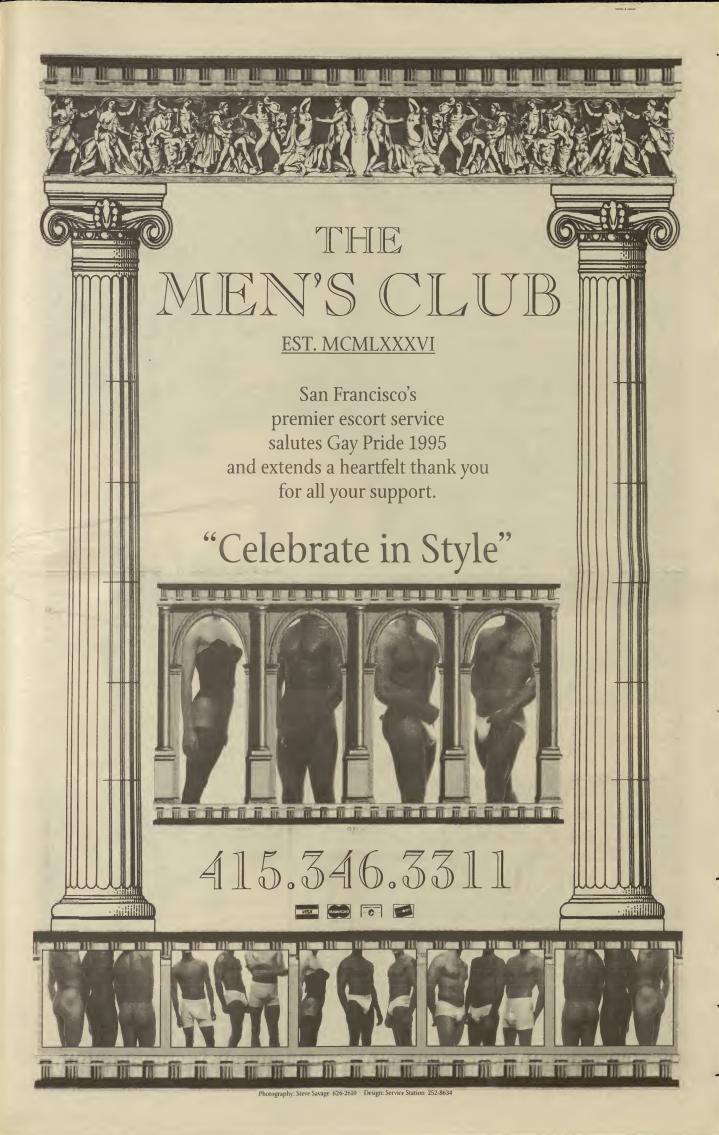
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